

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, the Fine Arts, Music and the Drama.

No. 4375.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1911.

PRICE
THREEPENNY.
REGISTERED AS A NEWSPAPER.

WORCESTER MUSICAL FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER, 1911.

Conductor—Mr. IVOR ATKINS.
MONDAY, Sept. 10.—3.30, Opening Service, with Chorus and Orchestra.
TUESDAY, Sept. 12.—11.30, 'Elijah'; 7.30, New Work, 'Sayings of Jesus' (Davies); Coronation Te Deum (Parry); Motet (Elgar); Choral Symphony (Beethoven).
WEDNESDAY, Sept. 13.—11.30, 'Parsifal'; Act III (Wagner); 'Stabat Mater' (Palestrina); New Symphony (Elgar). 8 P.M., Public Hall.—Concert, with New Work (Bantock).
THURSDAY, Sept. 14.—11.30, 'St. Matthew' Passion (Bach). 7.30, New Work, Five Mystical Songs (Vaughan Williams); Violin Concerto (Elgar); Requiem (Mozart).
FRIDAY, Sept. 15.—11.30, 'Messiah'.
PRINCIPALS.—Messames Nicholls, Gleeson-White, Le Mar, Kirkby, Linn, Lakin, Lett, Silvers; Messrs. Cones, Elwes, Austin, Higley, McInnes, Radford, Ransall; Solo Violin, Mrs. Herr F. Krellner.
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Shire Hall, Nottingham, August 29, 1911.

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LITERATURE

Aspects of Islam. By Duncan Black Macdonald, D.D. (New York, Macmillan Company.)

THIS is, for the reasons that follow, the most important general study of the Mohammedan religion that has appeared for many years. Prof. Macdonald's two previous books were in certain respects even more valuable and instructive to special students, but we doubt if they reached the wider English public which ought to be interested in a subject that deeply concerns the future, not only of India and Egypt, but also of Eastern Europe. Moreover, those two books, 'Muslim Theology' and 'The Religious Attitude and Life in Islam,' were bookish books. We mean that they were the results of a profound study of the theologians, jurists, and philosophers of Islam as far as they could be interpreted by a brilliant Western Arabist who had not lived among Muslims. In them we found an admirably lucid exposition of the teaching of such men as al-Ghazzali—who first reconciled, as far as might be, the mysticism of the "Inner Light" with the crude dogmatism of Mohammedan theology and with the curious Muslim developments of psychology and metaphysics—or Ibn-Khaldun, the most modern-minded of Arabic philosophical historians. To have made the thoughts of these really great and original minds intelligible and familiar to students of religion and philosophy was a truly eminent service.

In his new book Prof. Macdonald addresses all reading people. It is not a book about books, however important, but a book about people. Since his 'Religious Attitude and Life in Islam' was published, he has spent a year among Muslims in the East, chiefly in Cairo, and now he writes not as a bookman, but as one who has talked face to face with living Muslims of all classes. He has studied their "attitude" on the spot, and seen their life as it is lived; he writes from the inside, and endeavours to tell us what Islam stands for in the actual belief of its followers: "not so much the essence of Islam as... what Islam has become... to-day in the Muslim masses." The results are remarkable. We can only notice two or three of the most striking, but before we do so a word must be said upon the subject of Prof. Macdonald's communications with the Egyptians.

It may properly be asked, How could a scholar who knows only classical and literary Arabic converse fluently on abstruse questions of theology and even metaphysics with Egyptians who talk a quite different form of Arabic? How can we tell that he has really got at their meaning? It is clear from many frank and modest admissions that Prof. Macdonald experienced the difficulties which all literary Arabists meet with in getting a grip of the vernacular; but it is also evident that he did get it in a remarkably short time; and for the special purpose of theological and philosophical discussion he was aided by the obvious fact that the technical terms in literary Arabic and the vernacular, though not the grammatical idiom in which they must be expressed, are necessarily identical. As for the danger of false information, he went out fore-armed. No one, he says, should believe anything in the East unless it is supported by the evidence of at least a dozen witnesses. This may seem excessive caution, but it is well founded, and it has served the author in good stead. Dr. Macdonald has not been imposed upon, even by the Christian convert from Islam whom he quotes. The Professor entered into friendly relations with educated and devout Egyptians with a degree of intimacy which it is extremely difficult for Europeans and Christians to attain, and his statements as to the actual prevailing belief of Muslims, at least in Cairo, may be taken as authoritative.

The results, we have said, are remarkable:—

"Practically all thinking men who are also religious-minded are mystics. With us what is called the Inner Light has appeared here and there, in one form or another; but it has never, for the general body of Christendom, been the dominant element in the basis of the faith. In Islam that position has been reached. If you take the man in Islam who really does think and is sincerely religious, you may be perfectly sure that his attitude is mystical."

In other words, the real religion of Islam is to be found among the darwishes—it is better to use the scholarly spelling, since

"dervish" has become distinctively associated with the fanatical warriors of the Sudan. Readers who do not know the East will be astonished to learn that an immense proportion of the ordinary population of Cairo and other towns, ordinary workmen and shopkeepers, belong to one or other of the darwish brotherhoods, with which they are connected in much the same way as the Tertiaries of the Franciscan and other orders of friars are related to the regulars. It is only the minority that live in monasteries and take the full vows; the greater number

"live in the world in every respect, but they have taken vows which require them daily or weekly, as the case may be, to go through certain religious ceremonies; they carry a certain badge with them and regard themselves as under a certain obligation to the general body, and as standing in a certain affiliation with it."

The public performance of these ceremonies, which used to be a slow for tourists, has very properly been forbidden by the Shaykh el-Bekri, the head of all the fraternities, but Prof. Macdonald was permitted to be present, and he records his impressions:—

"I wish to say as emphatically as possible that I did feel religious reality in it; did feel that behind all this there was a real devotional spirit; and that certain, at least, of the young men were getting something out of it that perhaps they could not have got otherwise. There was this, at any rate, to be said for it, that there was in it none of the irregular transports, outbreaks, shriekings, which so often appear in what we call times of revival. The whole performance was kept carefully in hand. It was plain to me that the Shaykh who was presiding... had his hand upon this great machine, was keeping in touch with it, and holding it down... There was nothing there of the nature of an outbreak; nothing of the disgraceful scenes—if I may say so—which appeared at revivals. This was normal, regular; their religious work week by week. It was not any working of themselves up for a particular occasion."

Nor was it the business of professional devotees. The room seemed to be regarded by the brotherhood as something between a church and a parochial hall or club-house. Young men strolled in to look on or talk with others, and were invited to join the circle of celebrants if they liked, but some shook their heads, as if they did not happen to be in the mood for it. The whole thing was evidently part of their ordinary religious life, as much as a prayer-meeting is of the ordinary religious life of many Christian denominations. Of any evil effects Prof. Macdonald witnessed none, though he sees of course that autohypnosis, which has a good deal to do with the ecstasy, may be indulged in till a man becomes useless for ordinary life, and that a youth's downward course may sometimes be traced as evidently to the excitement of a *zikr* as to the morbid influence of a Church "mission week." As to the good effects, he brings forward the testimony of a Christian ex-darwish that he used to "get spiritual advantage and edification out of it," and what is more,

that he missed it, and was sure that he could (if only he might) as a Christian still conscientiously join in these religious rites: "he was perfectly certain that it would be to his spiritual advantage, help, growth, to have part in these things if that were otherwise possible." In some orders of darwishes Christians might possibly be admissible, and it is certain that Lane was involuntarily invested with *wilāya*, though how far this admitted him to any given order of darwishes may be a matter of doubt.

In these "Tertiaries" of Islam, the darwishes of every-day life, the Quakers of the East, Prof. Macdonald sees the really religious folk of the Mohammedan faith. There is perhaps some danger here of a circular argument; for he admits that he always found the mystics and darwishes the easiest to get on with and the most ready to talk on spiritual subjects, and further he confesses that "emotional religion in all its phases, eastern and western, has always attracted me." But many of his Egyptian acquaintances were orthodox sober-minded Muslims, who rather disparaged darwish excitement, shaking their heads, and protesting that such was "not of the faith," *laysa min ad-din*. Both sides of the question were presented to him, but it is easy to see on which side his sympathies lay. We confess we do not follow him when he remarks that "the mosque does not represent any centre for common religious life," merely because a Muslim does not attend a particular mosque as his own, but goes to any that happens to be convenient. So Londoners often go from church to church, yet each church may furnish a common religious feeling. Dr. Macdonald in his fourth lecture gives a brilliant exposition of that grotesque, but strictly logical development of the atomic philosophy which formed the climax of Mohammedan theologico-metaphysics, but it is obvious that he thinks it almost a waste of time; he has not much patience, perhaps, with what has so little bearing on the spiritual life.

Nor has he the smallest faith in "rationalizing" Islam, or "getting back to the Koran" and to Mohammed. Of the Arabian Prophet he is no great admirer, and we think he is too apt to fall into the historical error of judging one age by the standard of another. His account of Mohammed as "a poet *manqué*," "sprung from the soil of Semitic prophetism," and in his degree a genuine prophet, is correct but cold. He does not dwell on the man's heroic soul, but rather on his many weaknesses and political mistakes. The subject is too large to be discussed here, but we do not see that much is gained by defining Mohammed, in modern medico-psychologic terms, as "a pathological case." It comes perilously near begging the question; for where does religious emotion begin to become "pathological," "neurotic," "morbid," &c.? And, if it is pathological, how is moral censure—"turpitude" and so on—applicable to the characteristics of Mohammed's

later "inspirations"? But, dropping useless definitions, we agree with Dr. Macdonald that "as"—we should prefer to say "if," and it is a big "if"—"the moral standard of the masses of Islam is raised and the facts of the life of Muhammad become more widely known, a tremendous overturning will be inevitable." Already many educated Turks and Egyptians are not far from throwing Islam overboard. A great change is taking place in Islam itself:—

"Its attitude just now is far more conscious than it ever was before. It is no longer developing and advancing, or slumbering and mouldering, at any rate following its nature in happy unconsciousness; but its back is at the wall, and it looks upon an order of things, hostile now, not only militantly, but, what is far more deadly, economically. This situation Islam has realized and is realizing more and more widely with every year that passes. It is not only the young men in the cities who are facing a new future. In the villages and even in the recesses of the desert itself the consciousness is awaking that all is not well with the People of Muhammad. They all know how Arabi Pasha was crushed at Tell el-Kebir, how the Fulani Emirates went down, and how, in these last days, the Mahdi and his rule have been swept from the Sudan. It has gone ill with militant Islam, and when Islam is not militant, it dreams away its life in slow decay."

Some, who see this, flee into the desert, like the Senusis; others stick to the old paths and the scholastic theology, and of such are the Ulama of Egypt and not a few of the Nationalist party. But other Egyptian Nationalists, and still more the Committee of Progress and Reform in Turkey, are for assimilating European civilization and modernizing Islam. The Egyptian Progressives would put the preservation of Islam first and its modernizing second; the Young Turks would modernize at all costs, for Turkey with them comes first; and if they succeed, "Islam must yield." Prof. Macdonald can see no germinant ideas, no great plans of life and thought, in Islam, that can assure it a future. The line of escape, he thinks, from the impending catastrophe, "will be, first, through its mystical position," the elements of which he traces even in the mind of Mohammed, in that strange, chaotic trance-book the Koran, where mystics read again and again their own meaning in vague suggestive phrases, such as "the Face of Allah." In short, the hope of Islam is to be found in the emotional religion of the darwish and the "Inner Light" of al-Ghazzali, and not in the mosque, or the Azhar, or any form of Muslim scholastic theology.

Mankind, however, has a curious habit of grafting religious emotion on to extremely dry sticks of theology, and the dogmatic systems of an Anselm or an Augustine have never succeeded in excluding mystical interpretations. Al-Ghazzali made the dry bones live certainly, but he kept the dry bones. Whether right in his prediction or not, Prof. Macdonald sets forth the results of his intimate experience among Muslims with eloquence and

fervour, guarded and tempered by learning and a broad philosophical outlook. His description of how he—a Christian Scot—took part in the great procession of the Shi'a in memory of Hoseyn, and marched through the streets of Cairo at the head of the darwishes, is a scene from a living drama; and that other, of the "wind-swept, bird-haunted mosque" of Ibn-Tulun and the darwish's verses, is eloquent of the spirit of the Muslim East. Very curious notes there are on Egyptian superstitions, magic, and folk-lore, the properties of the animistic tree "Lady Mandūra," and the imported Voodoo or devil-rites known as the *Zar*; but Dr. Macdonald can speak only at second hand on these. He was unlucky in his search for sorcerers.

The Hartford-Lamson Lectures, of which these form a series, are intended to prepare missionaries for their work. Prof. Macdonald's advice to such is sound and practical. He is ever broad-minded and perceptive. We cannot imagine a better guide for a missionary who desires the one thing needful—to understand and like the people among whom he is to work—without which so much effort is vain.

Early Spanish Voyages to the Strait of Magellan. Translated and edited, with a Preface, Introduction, and Notes, by Sir Clements Markham. (Hakluyt Society.)

THIS volume revives the old controversy as to who was the first circumnavigator. Many Englishmen, with pardonable, but hardly historical enthusiasm, would vote for Drake; we are not sure that some would not put an illiterate cross against the name of Capt. Cook; but the real honour does not lie with any Briton. When, however, we read Sir Clements Markham's unqualified assertion that Sebastian del Cano "was the first circumnavigator," we feel bound to say that the question is not one that can be tied down to rules like an aviation race. The point on which the rival claims of Magellan and his subordinate officer Sebastian del Cano hang is really—the remark seems self-evident—a point of longitude. If the conditions of the feat were that the circumnavigation of the globe must be made in one voyage, starting from and returning to the same port, then undoubtedly Sebastian del Cano was the first to fulfil them, and was entitled to the proud crest which Charles V. granted him in 1523—a globe with the motto *Primus circumdedit me*. He had sailed with Magellan from San Lucar in September, 1519, and he brought one of the ships of the expedition (not the one he first sailed in, however) safely back to San Lucar three years later. Magellan had died in the Philippines without completing the voyage.

But if circumnavigation means going round the globe, anyhow, and beginning

and ending at any degree of longitude, then Magellan, equally without question, was the first circumnavigator; for he had already sailed to the Moluccas by the eastern route, and at his death in the Philippines he had overlapped on his western voyage the point he had previously reached from the other direction. If the goal was long. 135° E., irrespective of latitude, Magellan went round the world first. If San Lucar in long. 6° W. was both starting- and finishing-point, Sebastian del Cano has the honour. Such technicalities seem rather absurd, and the general verdict will be for Magellan, whose name deserves to be associated with that of Columbus.

Sir Clements Markham is not complimentary to the "Portuguese adventurer." Magellan's severe repression of the mutiny at Port San Julian furnishes matter for criticism; but mutiny on the high seas is recognized as a deadly crime, and, however Magellan may have transgressed his instructions, it is curious to find the editor of this volume, who has himself served in the Navy, apparently justifying the conspiracy of the two captains Juan de Cartagena and Gaspar de Quesada. They may have been right to remonstrate, but certainly not to mutiny. As to Magellan's being "a hard man, unfeeling and tactless," sea-captains of the sixteenth century were not usually given to softness.

But Magellan does not properly come within the scope of the new volume of the Hakluyt Society, and Sir Clements Markham need not have discussed his character. The name only occurs because the second voyage of Sebastian del Cano, Magellan's former officer, through the "Straits of the Eleven Thousand Virgins" to the Spice Islands, forms the subject of the first hundred pages. Sebastian was a Basque of Guetaria, a little seaport on the Bay of Biscay which received a charter in the thirteenth century. Sir Clements Markham describes it well, and the old *casa solar* of the Del Canos, hidalgos of Spain and gentlemen of coat-armour. When he joined Magellan's famous expedition in 1519, as master of Don Gaspar de Quesada's ship, the *Concepcion*, of 90 tons, Sebastian was only about 18 years old. He obeyed his captain when Quesada mutinied, but, being under orders, was pardoned, while his captain was beheaded. After Magellan's death and the deposition of Carvalho, Sebastian was chosen captain of the *Victoria*, which he brought safely back to San Lucar.

His second voyage through the Straits, under the supreme command of the Comendador de Loaysa, began at Coruña in July, 1524; but after passing the Straits of Magellan (or the Eleven Thousand Virgins) successfully, the Comendador and Del Cano died at sea within a week of one another (July 30th, August 4th, 1526). Sir Clements Markham finds in Sebastian a "very fine character" with "lovable qualities as a son and a brother, a warm friend, and a trusty shipmate"; but this appreciation seems

to be derived chiefly from his will, which included legacies to numerous relations and friends, and churches and chapels, at home. The narrative of the voyage by Capt. Andres de Urdaneta breathes no unprofessional affection, but keeps strictly to matter of fact. The great navigator's memory, however, "was preserved in the hearts of his countrymen," and indeed kept so well that it was nearly 150 years before they put up a slab in the church of Guetaria with the mendacious statement that "esta es la sepultura del insigne capitan Juan Sebastian de el Cano," whose grave was in the deep; and it was not till 1800 that it occurred to them to set up a statue to him. This was destroyed during the first Carlist war, and the present statue dates from 1861.

Urdaneta's narrative of the second voyage is well told, and contains many notes of first meetings with natives, seals, and "ducks without wings," as he describes penguins. This is followed by a detailed description of the Straits of Magellan by the pilot Martin de Uriarte, of the Loaysa expedition, and an account of the voyage of the pinnace Santiago after parting with Loaysa's fleet. The chaplain of the pinnace, the crew of which were short of provisions, volunteered to go ashore alone in a large box: "commending himself to God, he got into the box in his shirt and drawers, with a sword." This chaplain, Don Juan de Arreizaga, is the hero of the tale, and well deserved the record of his courage. He managed to make friends with the natives of Mexico and the Cacique, and "more than ten thousand Indians" came to the shore and filled the boat's barrels with food.

Among the eight voyages translated in this volume, that of the Nodal brothers, of Pontevedra in Galicia, in 1618, is noteworthy in many respects. The object of their expedition, in two caravels, was to explore the new strait named "Le Maire," stated to have been discovered in 1616 by Schouten of Hoorn between Tierra del Fuego and an island which was named Staten Land. In his very interesting biographical Introduction Sir Clements says:—

"The voyage of the Nodals was completely successful. They reached the new strait, examined its shores and anchorages, took many soundings, and carefully observed the phenomena of tides and currents. They also collected implements of the natives, skins of animals, and some botanical specimens. Their superiority to the Dutchmen as observers is very striking. Schouten's latitude of Cape Horn is over a hundred miles in error; while that of Nodal is only a few miles different from that of modern surveys.... The Nodals passed through Magellan's Strait, making useful observations for the guidance of future navigators, and were thus the first to circumnavigate Tierra del Fuego.... [They] drew their own chart and wrote their own narrative. They were diligent observers, and their voyage, though a very difficult and even perilous undertaking in those days, was most efficiently conducted. They did not lose a single man either from illness or accident.

The brothers never parted company, even in the worst weather, and the two little caravels never lost sight of each other."

Such a voyage certainly deserves "more notice and credit than it has ever received." The crew had to be "pressed" for the long and dangerous service, but the brothers clearly treated them kindly, as far as was consistent with strict discipline. A good deal of the narrative is necessarily made up of the usual sailing observations, but there are many curious notes of novelties, among which the fights with sea-lions seem to have especially excited the sailors:—

"When the sea-lion was wounded with the lances it rose on its feet higher than a man, uttering loud cries. Its size, strength, and ferocity were fearful. It seized the lance-head with its teeth, and using the iron as a dart, it gave the Captain Gonzalo de Nodal such a cut across the cheek that he could not eat nor heal his wound for more than a month. He was striking it on the head with the axe, and twice the sea-lion tore the axe from his hands with its teeth."

The plucky beast fell at last with two balls in its head from a Fleming's arquebus. Modern feminists may note that the males

"had the females in such subjection that, if they showed a desire to go into the sea, they bit them and forced them to stay on shore. It was indeed astonishing to see how these animals defended their females and young ones."

Sir Clements Markham has expended much labour and research on the introductions and notes to the various voyages, but occasionally we could wish for more clearness and precision. He might, for example, have explained the statement that Bartolomé de Nodal managed to convey 2,000 ducats, and arms and ammunition, to "the Lord of Veraven, head of the league [of the Catholics of Ireland] in that province," in spite of the vigilance of 24 English ships in "the port." No doubt Sir Clements means the Spanish succour sent to Tyrone's rebellion; but in the index he has "Veraven? Irish leader." We suggest Berehaven as the probable meaning. The translations from the Spanish must, in the absence of the original text, be taken for granted.

A History of the Ancient World. By George Willis Botsford. (Macmillan & Co.)

"EVERY effort," says the learned author of this book, "has been made to bring the work up to the present educational standpoint." Had he used *down* instead of *up*, he would have been nearer the truth. For the "tendency to skim the mere surface of knowledge" which he deplors in the age of Cicero is far more pronounced in the modern American society for which he writes, as, indeed, is shown by the very attempt to produce a history of the whole civilized world down to Charlemagne in a

volume of 550 pages. The author claims to have done pioneer work in his short history of Greece, apparently by his art in omitting things he regards as unimportant. We do not remember any positive outstanding feature in that volume. The art of omission is doubtless becoming more and more important, but we can hardly consider it perfectly attained in this book, which omits all mention of Grote, the king of Greek historians since Thucydides; likewise all mention of the Venus of Milo, and the Nike of Samothrace, the masterpieces which every American who visits Paris is bound to see. How many of them take Milo to be the sculptor of the goddess? But we readily grant that it is impossible to please every reader in the selection of a definite number from the myriads of facts which make up ancient history.

Far more serious is the great difficulty in presenting the selected facts accurately. It is almost beyond the power of any single man. When the Germans attempt these comprehensive sketches, they generally, and very wisely, work in a collaborating group. This admits of several specialists superintending the widely diverse chapters. So learned and experienced a scholar as Dr. Botsford has not escaped the perils of attempting to embrace the whole ancient world, and many of his details seem wanting in precision, or even in correctness. We will not complain of his opening dogmatic statement, that the civilization of Egypt is older than that of Babylonia by 1,000 years, because he follows respectable authorities. But we will say that he should not here have been dogmatic, for there is not a little evidence, which seems to be growing, that the culture of Egypt is secondary to that of Babylonia. There are certainly borrowings by Egypt from Babylonia, which have no parallel in borrowings by Babylonia from Egypt. The very old hieroglyphic script may itself have originated in Mesopotamia. But what shall we say to the statement that "the Phœnicians pronounced their vowels but lightly, and so felt no need of indicating them by letters"? Does the author not know that all primitive scripts are syllabaries, in which almost every sign implies a vowel sound? Initial vowels must be indicated; the rest are implied, as may be shown by writing out an English sentence with its initial vowels and consonants only. Such a sentence is generally quite easy to read.

Passing to the geography of the book, we find that of Italy peculiarly unsatisfactory. The author tells us that Liguria is part of the valley of the Po, which is not the case. Nor is it the case that the east coast is bolder and steeper than the west. It is, no doubt, narrower, but the east coast of Italy from Venice to Otranto contains no bold coast except Monte Gargano, whereas it does contain harbours equal to those on the west coast, viz., Ancona, Brindisi, and Otranto. These in the ancient sense were real harbours, which the Bay of Naples is not. Dr. Botsford says that a few of the rivers on the west coast are navigable. We wish

he had enumerated them. It is, moreover, new to us to speak of the country of the Sabines as Sabina.

We can hardly expect in so condensed a book any detail on military operations, but when we read that "Cæsar was, with the possible exception of Hannibal, the most brilliant military genius the world had yet produced," we feel that either the author's memory or his judgment is at fault, for the opinion of the world has justly placed Alexander of Macedon far above Cæsar in this respect. The use of the term "phalanx" seems to us also misleading. It is no doubt to be found in the oldest Greek for any compact military array, but to compare "the old-fashioned phalanx" with the Macedonian, and to say that the latter had its defensive armour lightened to make it more mobile, is likely to mislead the reader, and make him confuse it with the peltasts of Iphicrates.

Turning to other topics, we think it puzzling to speak of the front of the Parthenon as having six pillars, and find the author in the next sentence taking what we should call the real front of eight supporting the pediment as an outer colonnade. But this is defensible. It is not so to tell the reader that the great temple at Pæstum is of marble, or that a metope (μετόπη) "meant literally a face between."

There are many other statements which arise from the desire or the necessity of being brief, and may produce in the student's mind false impressions. Here are a few examples. "In nearly all ancient states the father had a right to kill his children, if he did not like to bring them up." That may be true in theory of the old Greeks, yet we feel certain that the actual killing of infants would have been regarded by them with horror. Their exposure was recognized in literature, and must have sometimes occurred in real life, just as in modern days illegitimate infants were often exposed by their mothers—so frequently indeed in England that foundling hospitals were established to meet this evil. Among the Greeks childless people and slave-dealers seem to have often intervened, as we may see in the comedy of Menander. We take similar exception to phrases such as "the knights being the only standing army at Athens," and the "splendid liveries" of the Roman slaves accompanying their masters, both of which create, we think, false impressions. To say that the reason why there were no professional lawyers at Athens was that "the laws were so simple that every one could understand them" seems absurd. Demosthenes tells us somewhere of five different procedures, any of which an aggrieved citizen might take to obtain redress. Would not this in itself afford scope for professional advice? We also learn that "there were two forms of Greek lyric poetry, the ballad and the choral ode: Lesbos was the home of the ballad." That is a use of the word "ballad" which may be American, but is not English. We presuppose

in a ballad a narrative element, such as we find in the dithyrambs of Bacchylides, but never in Alcæus or Sappho. We also object to the statement that Hesiod wrote an epic—his "Works and Days." He used, indeed, the same dialect and metre as the Epic poets, but he never wrote an epic poem, in the sense that we understand the phrase. Here again it may be a question of the mere use of a term. Can we apply the same excuse to the sentence, "Virgil, whose principal work is the *Æneid*, is graceful, tender, and childlike." The last epithet is astounding. Among all poets there is none whose art is more conscious and studied in every line than Virgil's.

These criticisms must not be concluded without a frank acknowledgment of the general merits of the book. There is a great deal of sound knowledge in it, and we specially commend the illustrations, not only for their apt selection, but also for the boldness which admits restorations of classical scenes by modern artists. These to the young student are far more suggestive than mere ruins, even if they are sometimes open to dispute. For a country school-teacher, who wants general guidance and suggestion on this great subject, Prof. Botsford's work will be very useful, even though the level of its scholarship is not the highest we know.

NEW NOVELS.

A Rolling Stone. By B. M. Croker. (White & Co.)

MRS. CROKER is one of those happy novelists who seldom fail to please, and her latest book is perhaps even more entertaining than its forerunners. It is concerned with a young Hussar, a very fine fellow and heir to a title, who has stooped to folly in the shape of debt. His uncle consequently stipulates that he shall make his own living for a stated time without financial assistance. He decides to be a chauffeur, and his various experiences are recounted in the author's most spirited vein. There are some excellent pictures of village life, together with several capital character-studies, while a pretty love-interest is conducted to a satisfactory ending.

A Portentous History. By Alfred Tennyson. (Heinemann.)

ONE feels a little grievance against Mr. Tennyson when one has reached the end of his clever story. What was begun, it seemed, as a study of Scottish life and character ends in a spirit of mock-heroics. One is taken in. But there is real feeling—real understanding, and tragedy—in the childhood and youth of the Scots giant who was "outcast"; but, when we leave him in his travelling circus with a Jewish proprietor, known as "The

Tickler," we experience revulsion. However, the faults of this novel are the faults of youth. One could indicate them on several sides, but it is better to praise and appreciate. Mr. Tennyson has copied older masters with mannerisms, and he is amazingly apostrophic. But he has excellent gifts, and his mastery of Scots, despite his apologies for his deficiencies, is astonishing in a Southron. This is a first book. It should not be the last, and it should also be the worst.

The Lost Iphigenia. By Agnes and Egerton Castle. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

A NOVEL treating of the domination, by a musical genius, of a young violinist of pre-eminent promise needs great freshness of treatment if it is to make any wide appeal to a jaded public. The "Master" who concentrates all his desires on bending singers to interpreting his works in exact accordance with his own conceptions is the one character who arrests attention. The girl instrument he breaks, and her friends who bear with her during a period of insensate vanity, including her lover, a stolid young English aristocrat, are merely puppets peopling the background of scenes depicting the will-power of the musical autocrat. Finally she accepts, as might be expected, the stolid and persistent young man, and we are led to suppose that after some waywardness she settles down to due appreciation of his merits as a husband. The work is likely to appeal to a large number of readers who will find undoubted entertainment, though not the sense of character of the authors at their best.

The Innocence of Father Brown. By G. K. Chesterton. (Cassell & Co.)

THE fact that Mr. Chesterton's series of detective stories have previously appeared in magazine form is not mentioned in this volume. Since such previous publication, granted to a select few, does no harm, we believe, to their later appearance, we think the fact might be mentioned, especially as it aids the critic in his estimation of the quality of the work before him.

A detective like Mr. Chesterton's Father Brown proceeds on principles which in the workaday world of to-day would hardly be considered practical. But it is part of Mr. Chesterton's mission to be extravagant, and discover significance in odd things and places, and some of his stories are decidedly ingenious in their solutions of mysteries. This kind of fiction has, however, been so well explored that surprises concerning the real criminal are hardly possible. The ordinary purveyor of sensation is interested only in his crimes and their explanation, not in human character. Mr. Chesterton boldly inserts in his narrative his familiar philosophy, piles up details of scenery, and

allows his little priest detective to moralize on good and evil. This is a novelty which tends to be tedious; but those who persevere will be entertained, and discerning readers already know that, whatever the subject of Mr. Chesterton's books, they are apt to be full of his own views.

One Ash: a Barn-Door Story. By Algernon Gissing. (White & Co.)

THERE is generally a strong element in Mr. Gissing's stories of what may be called spirituality, and his new book is no exception to this rule. It is a remarkable tale in several ways. For example, if we except the momentary appearance of a solicitor, there is not a character in it who belongs to the educated classes; yet the story is concerned entirely with mental and spiritual psychology. Tragedy broods over it from first to last, yet it is not pessimistic, but, on the contrary, informed throughout by a high idealism. It traces the influence, upon a group of ignorant and rather brutal country-folk, of one woman who, whilst as ignorant as any of the others, has a nature rich in spiritual possibilities. Briefly described, the plot would appear somewhat repulsive, but in fact it is nothing of the sort; and for its delicate sincerity and careful characterization the book is well worth reading.

The Cost. By L. G. Moberly. (Mills & Boon.)

IF the theme of this story is familiar, the treatment is not wanting in power. A well-bred country girl, betrayed by a fellow-lodger in a London boarding-house, has to bear alone the penalty of maternal care. Ought she, when she meets a man who is worthy of her love, to tell him, before they are married, of this not unimportant event in her career? That is the problem treated by the author, who deals with it on conventional lines. The construction of the tale is marred by some rather crude coincidences, and the character-drawing, though vivid and consistent, is lacking in intimacy. But the narrative makes a strong appeal to the emotions, and has restraint as well as power.

THE LITERATURE OF PLATO.

The Vitality of Platonism, and other Essays. By James Adam. (Cambridge University Press.)—The six essays contained in this volume were written on various occasions during the last five years of the author's life. Only two of them have been published previously in their present form, but not a little of their substance has already appeared in another context in Dr. Adam's book on 'The Religious Teachers of Greece.'

In the first essay, 'The Vitality of Platonism,' and in the last, 'The Moral and Intellectual Value of Classical Education,'

will be found eloquent and earnest pleas for the study of the classics, and particularly of Plato, as an indispensable element in a liberal education: apologies for "classical" education so sane and convincing deserve to be read and marked by all who are interested in this keenly debated question.

The other essays are of a more special character. That on 'The Divine Origin of the Soul' had already been published in 1906 as one of the 'Cambridge Praelections': it discusses, in a learned yet interesting manner, the part played by the idea of the soul's divinity in ancient Greek thought, with Pindar's striking phrase *τὸ γὰρ ἔστι μόνον ἐκ θεῶν* (frag. 131) for text. The next essay, which deals with 'The Doctrine of the Logos in Heraclitus,' although one of the shortest, is perhaps the most valuable of all as a contribution to exact knowledge: here the view that the Logos-doctrine is entirely Stoic is—successfully, as we think—impugned. The essay on 'The Hymn of Cleanthes' is the longest of the series: it contains a fine rendering in English verse together with an elaborate analysis of the 'Hymn,' in which the Stoic doctrines are amply illustrated from both ancient and modern literature.

The volume, indeed, is full throughout of the erudition of a scholar steeped in the culture of the ancient world; but what strikes us still more as we read it is the ardour of the spirit it breathes, the quality which above all others made James Adam the inspiring and inspired teacher he was: of him it was pre-eminently true, as these essays show, that "out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh." The book is well printed and indexed; but we wonder whether Dr. Adam wrote the last sentence on p. 30 as it stands.

With its learning, enthusiasm, and fine handling of lofty themes, this volume is, in a word, worthy of its author.

Plato's Phædo. Edited, with Introduction and Notes, by John Burnet. (Oxford, Clarendon Press.)—Except for a few alterations, the text of the 'Phædo' here printed is the same as that of the 'Oxford Plato,' with a similar *apparatus criticus* at the foot: this means that it is the soundest and most scientifically constructed text available. The Introduction, which runs to nearly fifty pages, is mainly devoted to defending the thesis that the "Platonic Socrates" is after all none other than the "historical Socrates." In Prof. Burnet's view it is a vulgar error to identify either the "Platonic Socrates" with Plato or the "historical Socrates" with the Socrates of the 'Memorabilia'; while to regard the 'Phædo' as an imaginary conversation, and the Socrates of the 'Phædo' as a mere mouthpiece of novel Platonic doctrines, is, says Prof. Burnet, to make Plato guilty of "an offence against good taste and an outrage on all natural piety." Rather the 'Phædo' is "a faithful picture of Socrates" and "a truthful record of the subjects on which Socrates discoursed on the last day of his life and of his manner of treating them." From this it follows that the caricature in 'The Clouds' is not so far from the truth, as, indeed, we suggested in a recent review of that comedy. "Socrates did not stand aloof from the scientific movement of his time"; he was influenced by Diogenes of Apollonia, Archelaus, Zeno, and Empedocles; above all, he was a student of Pythagoreanism, and thence he borrowed the Theory of Ideas, which, we are asked to believe, "was not originated by Plato or even by Socrates, but is essentially Pythagorean." If we add to this a touch of Orphicism tempered by

"irony," we get some idea of the real Socrates as he appears in the latest portrait of him.

It is this attitude to the historical problem which lends its main interest to the edition. But it contains also much that is valuable in the way of philological comment, and in this respect is greatly superior to Mr. Williamson's edition, which in many points of detail it expressly corrects. We miss, however, a full analysis of the argument such as previous editors have supplied; and many readers will not like having to turn to the end of the book for the notes.

POETRY AND LIFE SERIES.

Matthew Arnold and his Poetry. By Francis Bickley.

Coleridge and his Poetry. By Kathleen E. Royds.

Lowell and his Poetry. By W. H. Hudson.

Shelley and his Poetry. By E. W. Edmunds.

THESE four volumes are a continuation of the series which is edited by Mr. W. H. Hudson and published by Messrs. Harrap & Co., and which we have already noticed. We find it admirable for the purpose of introducing young readers to the works of good poets. There can be no doubt in the minds of those who are concerned with teaching English literature in the middle and higher forms of secondary schools that the biographical method of interpretation rouses an interest which disconnected selections of poetry can never attain. The series is well designed: the books are of about the right length, well printed, and contain roughly about 55 per cent of biography, and 45 of selected poems or passages from poems. The bibliographies might be made somewhat fuller with advantage.

Mr. Bickley on the whole gives a sound criticism of Matthew Arnold's work, and tells the story of his life adequately. We demur to a few statements. A contrast is made between the father Thomas Arnold, "stern, puritanical, utterly lacking in the sense of humour," and the son "Matthew, gay, sceptical, not guiltless of flippancy." The antithesis is not real, and not consistent with statements made later in the book about Matthew's "natural austerity" (p. 38), his constant aspiration "to be in earnest," and the intense sincerity of his poetry. We do not share Mr. Bickley's enthusiasm for 'The Strayed Reveller' as "almost, if not quite, his highest achievement both for thought and for language." The licence of the metre is too insistent: so far as form is concerned, it approaches poetry only in its rhythmic cadence, and that alone is not enough to make English poetry. With reference to the school poem 'Alaric at Rome' Mr. Bickley makes a good remark, that "in schoolboys' literature there is no mean between moralizing and levity." The real weakness of 'Empedocles on Etna' seems to us to have been pointed out by Froude. Surely it is an error of judgment not to give 'Sohrab and Rustum' in full: its appeal to young folk cannot be doubted; and, if it was a matter of space, several other quotations might well have been sacrificed for this fine piece.

The pathetic story of Coleridge's life and fitful achievement is well told by Miss Kathleen Royds. The poet being absent-minded, weak-willed, irresponsible, erratic, it is a marvel that he produced as much as he

did. In his early days he "was everything by turns and nothing long," and his poetical enthusiasm and political rages were like a succession of stubbles, catching fire and burning furiously for a few minutes before the wind of some favourable external circumstance. Miss Royds justly notes Coleridge's peculiar felicity in natural description combined with patriotic feeling and human interest. Among the selections 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' is printed in its entirety: indeed, where so much is fragmentary, it would have been a sin to omit any effective whole. We never leave the story of Coleridge without a heartfelt sigh for what he himself called his "indolence capable of energies." He waited for chance inspiration like an airman for a calm in which to make a brilliant "altitude record" before the total wreck of his machine.

We read Mr. Hudson's interesting 'Lowell and his Poetry' at a sitting, and were glad to have our memories refreshed of the man and the many good things he said. This little volume is somewhat off the beaten track of the examinee in English literature, but it was wise to include Lowell in the series, and we think English youth should be grateful. At the beginning are briefly sketched the origin and characteristics of New England literature, "a product of the Puritan spirit, though of the Puritan spirit touched, liberalized, transfigured by new thoughts and cosmopolitan culture." Then Mr. Hudson takes us charmingly along through the life of Lowell the nature-lover, the *vates* in both senses, the humanitarian of large heart and large ideas, the transcendentalist, the humorist, the poet somewhat cramped into the scholar, critic, and diplomatist. Mr. Hudson, as in his 'Keats,' has in his style a *grati aliquid* which reminds us of the truism that a good style should have nothing striking in it. The Biglow papers may be Lowell's most original contribution to American literature, and the critical essays America's best literary criticism; but the things which most move us are the description of Lincoln in the 'Harvard Ode,' and 'After the Burial.' "Death is a private tutor. We have no fellow scholars, and must lay our lessons to heart alone." A sentence of Lowell's must appeal to many a teacher, especially to men like Mr. A. C. Benson: "My being a professor wasn't good for me: it damped my gunpowder." At the end Mr. Hudson brings together a few poems illustrating Lowell's "eminently broad and eminently practical" religion.

Mr. E. W. Edmunds, in dealing with Shelley, naturally has a difficult task to fit suitable quotations into his space, for there is much to quote and much to write about Shelley's short but particularly full life. The book is made up largely of pieces of poems, though the writer is careful to insist that they are only specimens and that in most cases the poems must be read whole. There is so much alike in the poetic temperament and product of Spenser and Shelley that in the comparison of 'The Revolt of Islam' with the 'Fairy Queen' (p. 73) something more might have been made of so instructive an analogy. The details of the life, which is one to puzzle young people, are sympathetically given, and the poetical output is skillfully connected with them. We quote a sentence from the summing up on Shelley's greatness:—

"He is at one with the other romantic poets in the determination to express his own individuality in the manner most suited to it. And it is precisely in the nature of this individuality that he stands so solitary in literature. He was an incongruous

harmony, which the world could not understand, of both aspirations and high personal character with social principles that would have been fatal, if universally applied, to the very virtues he most loved."

If teachers and taught would realize it, the best preparation for English literature examinations of the London Matriculation type would be the reading-through in class, with the guidance of a teacher, of booklets such as are provided by this excellent series.

LETTERS OLD AND NEW.

A Selection from Cowper's Letters, edited by E. V. Lucas, with notes by M. L. Milford (Frowde), is one of those admirable pocket volumes in the production of which the Oxford press excels. Mr. Lucas adds to the pleasantness of the collection by his little discourse on its merits, and on the select company of letter-writers whose familiar pen provides us at once with literature and delight. Here

"everything, or nearly everything, has been retained which shows him [Cowper] in the light of an agreeable philosophic correspondent; and nearly everything has been omitted which bears upon his own unhappy spiritual state or upon local, family, or literary matters that either are of no intrinsic interest or that involve repetition."

A few letters to the Rev. John Newton are included, but they are excellent, not gloomy in the religious way. The rhyming epistle on p. 72 deserves all that Mr. Lucas says of it. To this friend Cowper does not disdain to quote that pagan Epicurean, Horace; and he writes a good deal later in the book concerning his translation of Homer, wherein Thurlow, once his fellow-clerk, takes a hand as critic. A knowledge of Greek is necessary to enjoy this part of the correspondence, and it may be noted that more learning than Shakespeare had in ancient tongues has to be taken for granted in most of Mr. Lucas's other epistolary models, FitzGerald, Gray, Lamb, Swift, and Walpole.

Thus the scientific equipment of which we hear so much will not qualify readers to enjoy fully these flowers of epistolary leisure. Perhaps future generations will revel in a new series of masterpieces describing without the aid of a desiccated mythology the delights of scientific discovery. There must, however, be a leisurely tone about these communications. In his summary of the best letter-writing Mr. Lucas explains that it is fatal to be exciting. Further, you must have a competency, and must be something of a solitary, or "at least quite happy when solitary." We do not take this last rule as indicating a desire to be alone so much as a nice taste in persons. Gray was devoted to Bonstetten, and had reason to be dissatisfied with less brilliant persons after his departure. When Chancellor Christie said that he preferred his own company, Joseph Knight's reply, "Epicure!" was equally brief and just.

Mr. Lucas mentions as on the title-page (where, by the by, it does not appear) Coleridge's "divine chit-chat," applied, apparently, first to Cowper's poems, but an excellent description of the letters. He says that good letter-writers are "all amateurs." They are certainly people with an artistic conscience of some sort, and mostly they are lovers of letters in the wider sense. Selecting suitable correspondents, they might take for themselves the Tennysonian motto, "I will bury myself in my books [other reading "in myself"], and the Devil may pipe to his own."

Love-Letters of a Japanese. Edited by G. N. Mortlake. (Stanley Paul & Co.)—In his preface 'In Explanation' of the present volume, Mr. G. N. Mortlake assures readers that "these letters are real"; whereby we suppose it to be implied that they were actually written by real persons in the circumstances they describe. We own, nevertheless, to a feeling of scepticism. We have had similar assurances before in respect of works of a like nature, which have turned out to be literary *tour de force* astutely masked. "Bluff" plays an ever-increasing part in modern life, and literature has learnt to suspect it in "love-letters." If the letters are fiction, they supply a clever and minute analysis of Japanese character and ideals as opposed to those of the West, and as such, apart from questions of literary merit, they deserve some recognition. If they are genuine, they constitute a heinous breach of good taste, and it is difficult to see the excuse for their publication. Of internal evidence, one way or the other, there is very little, beyond the fact that Admiral Togo, and Mr., afterwards Sir Ernest Satow—formerly British Minister to Japan—are mentioned as being personally known to the Japanese party to the correspondence, but fiction enjoys considerable licence nowadays, and these assertions count for little. Briefly, the letters tell a story, the protagonists in which are an English girl with the unconvincing name of Mertyl Meredith and a middle-aged—and, at the outset, married—Japanese gentleman termed Kenrio Watanabe. They meet in Vienna, where community of tastes, ideals, and vision afford a mutual attraction. They meet again in London, and agree to collaborate upon some work whereof the precise purport does not appear, but which is to be laden with literary fame for both of them. Then they fall in love, with an abandonment which reads curiously in cold print. They rejoice each other in Zürich, and are betrothed, exchanging tokens, souvenirs, and protestations of undying rapture, after which Mr. Watanabe is compelled—incidentally for the purpose of divorcing his first wife—to leave for Japan, whence and whither for more than a year perfervid letters come and go.

It must be admitted that Miss Meredith's affection inclines to violence. She speaks of killing her lover, should he prove cold or false, and in the final letter, definitely winding up the correspondence, Mr. Watanabe, while hoping "you will marry some nice Englishman," observes with admirable prudence and good sense, though not precisely in English, as commonly understood:—

"Then also I remembered you had spoken, and even I myself had spoken, to die or kill as for love, and that gave me now a very bad impression to me, for such shows that love is not a good thing. Also that I should have loved any lady, in such strong way as I loved you, is quite out of my natural thought, and the thought of any Japanese."

The shock to Mertyl of this volte-face must have been enhanced by the fact that she had been at pains to obtain an appointment to work in Japan for a London journal, only to find on arrival that her betrothed had, as the result of a year spent in his native environment, reverted to the national opinion that love is "immoral." His explanation is that he "smoothed into it unawares, and according to my Europeanised thought it was so delicious." He is allowed the last word, and there was, apparently, no male relative near with a horsewhip.

The letters themselves are models of indiscretion, and, granted that they were

actually written in good faith, this cannot be accounted a fault. It only makes their publication, on that assumption, the more surprising. Every man and woman has his or her own idea of a love-letter, and in every case that idea is based on the hypothesis that what is written is not for other eyes. There are, however, quaint touches in the correspondence, some of which we cannot refrain from quoting.

"Oh, dear heart, are we really two distinct egos?" inquires Mr. Watanabe, early in the proceedings; and again:—

"Oh how sweet, heart of my heart, even to think of our own garden in which we will walk together, and observe humble bees alighting on those pea flowers."

"We cannot kiss in the College," writes Mertyl Meredith from Zürich. "I should feel sordid, I think, if I did."

"Beloved, dear, dear, my dear," wails the middle-aged Kenrio shortly afterwards. "Actually, physically, my arms have ached to hold you, my lips burned to kiss you," says the ingenuous Myrtel. "Reason is no use," continues Kenrio despairingly at a later stage, "even the Ego seems not to be at home." Of their parting at Zürich Myrtel writes, "How sweet, how terribly sweet it was. I am now almost frightened at the sweetness, when I realise it." "I slept once with my head on your knees, I was led by your hands, you assisted me in packing luggage," cries Watanabe in a frenzy of reminiscence between Naples and Port Said.

"I sometimes long so much" (i.e., to be kissed), responds Myrtel, "that I take a girdle and bind it tightly, so tightly that I can hardly breathe, round my waist, and then close my eyes a little and dream that it is your arms around me. It gives me almost the feeling." Mr. Watanabe is as candid in his turn. "Before I knew you," he says, "my nails were not clean, my hair was nicely long not a bit, I have not shaved enough."

It is inevitable that Mertyl should inquire of her lover whether he has "ever read any of Nietzsche"—that unfortunate philosopher who seems to possess a fatal attraction for persons of the "Mertyl" stamp—but on this point Watanabe maintains a welcome reserve.

"I like to feel the tickle of your moustache on my neck," writes Mertyl. "I know I liked many persons," says Kenrio reassuringly, "and yes, I loved my Aunt, but even the latter was small in comparison with our great love"; and again, "Dearest, my bodily weight is still increasing, and I weigh just to-day 107½ pounds"; and yet again, speaking of his garden, "I feel that I am with you, nearer to you in that seat, because the seat lies so calm and undisturbed and overlook calm nice garden, and is protected from behind." A moving contrast to this almost too practical view of things is to be found in Mertyl's letter dated some ten days later: "I shall be starving for kisses—so terribly hungry that you must kiss me very gently at first or I will die—"

So it goes on, with hysteria on the female side, and what at times, all unwittingly, comes near to low comedy on the man's. Mr. Yoshio Markino, the well-known Japanese artist and writer, in reviewing the "love-letters" in the columns of a contemporary, observes: "As for the literary value, it is awfully rotten." Allowance must, of course, be made for Mr. Markino's acquaintance with our language and its idioms, but it cannot be denied that his somewhat sweeping judgment holds a measure of truth.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THE eighteen essays which Mrs. John Lane entitles *The Talk of the Town* (Lane) do not attempt to produce the dialogue, the silly catchwords, gossip, and scandal, which serve to pass the time of the gilded youth and his frisky companions. The papers are rather the work of a social philosopher who is humorously observant, and rattles on brightly, hitting off follies and foibles, yet never impaling specimens of the human butterfly with the grim pin of the world-improving sociologist.

On such subjects as 'The Tyranny of Clothes' and 'The Tragedy of the "Ex"' (the person who is out of his business of being a Cabinet Minister or otherwise important) it is not possible to be original; but there are other papers here which have a genuine spice of novelty, such as 'The Toast-Master' and 'The Gutter Sphinx,' (the sandwichman). There are, too, several entertaining stories of collecting (the begetter of some of these we can guess), while 'The American and his Holiday' is at once keen and discriminating. Mrs. Lane recalls a divine moonlight night in Venice, and a red-headed youth from Maine whose voice from a passing gondola broke the stillness with "I say, a gondola does beat a buggy all hollow, don't it!"

The national irreverence is certainly disturbing on occasion. Gazing on the moon in Switzerland through a vista of trees, a travelling companion of the present writer remarked, "I guess I haven't seen the old gal for a long time." Still, "the youngest and possibly the greatest of the nations" has, it is pointed out, a zeal for education which is serious and noteworthy.

In 'The Wrong Sex' and 'Men's Wrongs' there is a pretty defence of the capabilities of women. Mrs. Lane protests that "those of us who make modest little efforts at literature ought really not to be crushed by an 'ess.'" We do not think there is much "crushing" done nowadays, while those who have an historical regard for English do not like the word "authoress." We gladly recognize Mrs. Lane as an "author," a term which implies, perhaps, more care and lucidity than the journalist finds it advisable or necessary to supply.

THE recent meeting of a "Universal Races Congress" in London, noticed by us in our number for July 29th, lends interest to the issue of *Nationalities and Subject Races* (P. S. King & Son), a slender volume containing the report of a conference held last year which may be regarded as in some sense the precursor of the more formal gathering. In importance and ability the papers and speeches now republished are singularly unequal. Some of the speakers—Mr. William Gibson is a case in point—would seem to have come perilously near trifling with their audience, while the utterances of others have permanent value and are rich in facts or weighty in argument.

Prof. Gilbert Murray and Mr. J. A. Hobson's addresses are full of valuable thought and make attractive reading. Mr. Hobson's exposition of the fundamental difference between ancient and modern Imperialism—the one simple, because untouched by any sense of a moral problem involved in its proceedings; the other complicated by its recognition, ready or reluctant, genuine or assumed, that such a problem exists and must be reckoned with—is both a brilliant piece of writing and a real contribution to

the discussion of a subject beset with difficulties. In his comparison between the profession and the practice of "dominant races" in their dealings with subject peoples Mr. Hobson declares himself a partisan of the view most lenient to human nature: it is the unconscious rather than the conscious hypocrite who, in his opinion, sways the counsels of nations when questions of annexation or the subjugation of aboriginal inhabitants have to be decided. Sir Charles Dilke's paper on 'Forced and Indentured Labour in South America' overflows with information, particularly in relation to Mexico and Brazil. In some arresting pages on the population of the South American Republics, Sir Charles shows that the line frequently drawn between the inhabitants of the better-known regions of those States and the dwellers in their remoter tracts is purely artificial:—

"Distinctions which undoubtedly exist, and are often supposed to be of race, are in fact only between Indians, who are Catholic and speak Spanish, and Indians who are grouped by other Indians as 'savages.'.....Mr. Rice showed the so-called savages to be as interesting, as cultivated, and as artistic as are the best of the Indian tribes. They have their pottery, their music, their poetry, and their traditions."

The significance of the free negro labour at Panama, as a fact affecting the common argument for the "necessity" of indentured labour, is pointed out by Sir Charles.

One of the most interesting papers is that in which Mr. Bernard Temple discusses the position of Persia. Miss Rosalind Travers's vivid account of Finnish social conditions also deserves notice; Mr. Lajpat Rai on the 'Present Condition of India' is certain of attention.

The editorial note contains a sympathetic reference to "the lamented death of Sir Charles Dilke" and his services to "the cause of those obscure peoples, for whose welfare so few care."

The Life of Friedrich Nietzsche. By Daniel Halévy. Translated by J. M. Hone. With an Introduction by T. M. Kettle. (Fisher Unwin.)—There are few more depressing biographies than that of Nietzsche, and in the work before us, in spite of every effort to cut short the account of his later years, there is as gloomy a life-study as any human being could well give rise to. The book has a brilliant and witty Introduction, full of good points, from the pen of a rising Irishman, and it is no disparagement of the solid and conscientious work of the biographer to say that in this Introduction supplies the best possible incentive to the reader to peruse the complicated and melancholy history which the book unfolds. Those who are interested in Nietzsche will find that a reading of 'Zarathustra' is more stimulating and much less burdensome than his biography. The relationships of this most extraordinary and (in his lifetime) wholly unsuccessful German professor are in no single case such as to make good biographical material. Anything which bears upon the life of Wagner must, however, have a claim upon the attention, and the chapter which describes the pleasant days at Tribschen (near Lucerne) before Wagner removed to Bayreuth is the only happy part of the story.

The author's method is to expound (not to criticize or even to assist the reader to form judgments on) the numerous works of Nietzsche. The growth of 'Zarathustra' in its various parts is well described, and much excellent quotation from Nietzsche's writings is incorporated into the narrative.

One sees and feels the strength of his prose style, the exhaustless energy of his imagery, the hardness of his philosophy on every page. Above all one sees how wise, how tragically necessary, was the advice of Nietzsche's Leipzig professor—Ritschl—"restrict yourself, concentrate." The subjects of philology, music, philosophy, and history are too much for any one man to become a world-force in them all. From the time when Nietzsche bought his copy of Schopenhauer's 'World as Will and Idea' as a student at Leipzig to the period when he lay dying at Weimar nearly forty years later there was no influence of a philosophical kind which lay stronger upon him than that of the great pessimist. The Heraclitean notion of an "Eternal Return" or repetition of everything infinitely often in the course of time, the better-known conceptions of the Superman and the Will to Power—these are all original in a qualified sense only. It is true that Nietzsche was "no man's man," as he said of Schopenhauer, but, had there been no Schopenhauer, there could have been no Nietzsche.

Christmas Stories from 'Household Words' and 'All the Year Round' (2 vols.), including 'The Holly Tree,' 'The Seven Poor Travellers,' 'Dr. Marigold,' 'Mugby Junction,' 'Mrs. Lirriper's Lodgings,' and others less widely known, have just been added to the delectable "Dickens Centenary Edition" (Chapman & Hall). Adequate recognition may now perhaps be accorded to the American gentleman whose all too brief transit through the Mugby Junction Refreshment Department is no less rich in human interest than are the exploits of the Rev. Melchisedech Howler, and the hundred and one other purely incidental characters over whom Dickens seemed to gloat with contagious zest. 'The Lazy Tour of Two Idle Apprentices' and 'No Thoroughfare' are printed in full, since any attempt to separate the work of Dickens from that of Wilkie Collins, even if feasible, must be disastrous to the continuity of the narratives. The high standard of production set by the earlier volumes is fully maintained.

Nooks and Corners of Cornwall, with a Map, by C. A. Dawson Scott (Nash), is agreeable so far as it goes, but will not, we fear, satisfy the expert. The last page, apart from two Appendixes, is p. 198, and there the writer asks:—

"You who have gone with me on this delightful journey, can you think of any county with a greater variety, historical, antiquarian, natural, to offer you for the good and bracing time of a holiday?"

That, to use an Americanism, is just the trouble. A great deal that the tourist might consider noteworthy has to be missed out. We should have thought, for instance, that details in the church at Tintagel were worth more than this note:—

"The cruciform church on the cliff is largely Norman, but portions of it belong to almost every succeeding age and period. Some have even held that it contains Saxon work, but the authorities are not agreed."

An inscribed stone is mentioned at Tintagel, but the very interesting monument, inscribed on both sides, now in front of the Wharnclyffe Arms, and the building of early date known as "the old Post Office," are omitted.

All that is said of the ancient church of St. Just is that it contains "some frescoes." Crantock Church is described as "one of the most interesting in Cornwall," but nothing is said of the elaborate restorations of roof-

screen, stained glass, &c., due to the persistent energy of the present vicar, who

"brought himself into notice some time since by objecting to the presence in his church of women who were not wearing hats. Courage is a fine thing, but it is generally understood that the difficulty nowadays is not to discourage people from attending service, but to get them to come."

The last time the present writer was in this church the congregation was excellent, and it is only fair to add that it has been worked up by the present vicar, and from a very sparse attendance.

The List of Hotels on the author's route is useful, though no hint is given of their scale of prices; and the Foreword has some "warnings" which are worth attention.

"THE LOTUS LIBRARY" (Greening) offers in a neat and attractive form translations of notable French books. We may mention in this series *The Diamond Necklace*, by M. Franz Funck-Brentano, well known as an archivist; *The Disaster*, by MM. Paul and Victor Margueritte, a vivid account of the first part of the war of 1870, in which their father played a distinguished part; and *The Poison Dealer* of M. Georges Ohnet.

'THE ROYAL DAUGHTERS OF ENGLAND AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES.'

WILL you allow me space to set out some matters, which seem to me to be of considerable weight, in connexion with Mr. H. Murray Lane's important book 'The Royal Daughters of England and their Representatives,' reviewed in your columns a few weeks ago?

On p. 95 of vol. i. Mr. Lane has the following passage concerning Eleanor, daughter of Geoffrey Plantagenet, and sister of that Arthur who was an anxiety to King John:—

"Dugdale and Sandford say she died in Bristol Castle, 10 August, 1241. There is reason to suppose she was slowly starved to death, or otherwise made away with, as the sum of one hundred pounds was paid to John Fitz Geoffrey, Constable of the Castle, on 15 March, 1241, *ad executionem Alianore consanguinee Domini Regis faciendam*. The manner of her death, as far as I am aware, has never yet been touched upon by historians."

The last sentence is undoubtedly correct. The author appends a note that "this sum was paid about five months before Eleanor's death," that fact being, of course, the base of the starvation hypothesis.

Does Mr. Lane quite realize the conclusions to which he has here led? To what he has directly told us (itself sufficiently arresting) it must be added that we are asked to believe—(1.) that this astonishing ferocity is to be ascribed to Henry III.: had it been his father—but Henry III.? (2.) that the King, not content with making the whole staff of the Lower Exchequer participants in his nefarious project, confided it also to his Chancery clerks, who drew up a writ in some such terms as these: "The King to the Treasurer, &c....Deliver out of our treasury £100 to John son of Geoffrey for murdering our cousin."

Frankly, the thing is impossible. What are the facts? To begin with, the money was paid in March, 26 Henry III., i.e. in March, 1242, seven months after, not five months before, the death of the Princess. The entry on the Issue Roll is correctly transcribed except that *facienda* should be *facienda* (i.e. *faciendam*), but *executionem* in the sense of "execution" is, to say the

east, rare. We are compelled, therefore, to turn to the writ of *liberate* for an explanation of the mystery. Fortunately the Liberate Roll has survived, and supplies the key in an enrolment of the writ in which, after *executionem*, appears the word *testamentum*. John son of Geoffrey was not an executioner, but an executor.

I would not have called attention thus to the matter had Mr. Lane's large and beautiful book been a merely genealogical work; but it is, or ought to be, much more—an historical authority. And this brings me to a second point.

Mr. Lane has been careful to exclude many interesting but illegitimate princesses from the scope of his work. When, therefore, he includes (p. 65), as the daughter of Geoffrey and the Empress Maud, that Emma who married David ap Owen, Prince of North Wales, we look to see what proofs our author has to offer of the legitimacy of this little-known princess. They are these: that Sandford ('Genealogical History') says that a daughter of Geoffrey and Maud is mentioned by Roger de Hoveden; that Anderson ('Royal Genealogies') also quotes Hoveden; that a Windsor herald (*temp.* James I.) calls the lady "Emme, sister to Henry II."; and that in another MS. authority, preserved at the College of Arms, she is "distinctly called" Emma, daughter of Geoffrey Plantagenet, Earl of Anjou.

Here again what are the facts? There is Pipe Roll authority for the date of the lady's marriage (1174), but that is by the way. The important points are that Ralph de Diceto (the best contemporary authority) says definitely that she was the illegitimate daughter of Geoffrey and a woman of Maine; that Sandford and (consequently) Mr. Lane have wrongly quoted Hoveden, who ranks almost with Diceto as an authority, but who, in point of fact, says only that this lady was sister of the King; and that the term "sister" or "brother" at this period repeatedly covers the illegitimate as well as the legitimate relationship.

This, however, is not all. The French authorities also know of an Emma, daughter (legitimate or illegitimate) of Geoffrey; but they say she married Guy, Seigneur de Laval. Mr. Lane has himself quoted Anselme's statement to this effect, but without any reference to anything Anselme may have to say about Laval, or (what is more important) to the various writers (Duchesne, *eg.*, or Maitre, or the author of 'L'Art de vérifier les Dates') who have dealt specially with the Laval pedigree. Yet some writers, and among them Anselme, have maintained that the same Emma married both Guy and David; in which case her children by Guy, her first husband, would be more important as representatives than those she had by David. If we take the alternative view that there were two Emmas, one probably legitimate and one illegitimate, Guy's wife, as the legitimate one, becomes even more important for our author's purpose. Even if we say with the latest and best authority, Le Comte A. Bertrand de Broussillon, that there is no documentary evidence to "étayer....la légende" that Emma, wife of Guy, was also daughter of Geoffrey, the legend and Broussillon's work still call for discussion.

I am brought here to a third point. There is a word in Mr. Lane's title his use of which seems to me unfortunate—"Representatives." I take only one case. In Pedigree II. Mr. Lane traces the representation of Princess Gundred, daughter of William the Conqueror [1], to Thomas, Earl of Arundel, who died in 1415. Now this Earl had three

sisters, and, to quote 'The Complete Peerage,' "in the descendants of these three ladies vests the representation of the earlier Earls of Arundel"; to which we may add "and of 'Princess' Gundred." Mr. Lane, however, proceeding with his pedigree, traces only the representatives of the eldest, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas de Mowbray. In fact, he habitually neglects the representatives of any save the eldest of coheirs.

HILARY JENKINSON.

THE LIFE OF ISAAC WATTS.

Cowper School, Olney, Bucks.

IN "The Lives of the British Hymn Writers," upon which I have so long been engaged, I have now reached Isaac Watts. The volume on Watts will, like its predecessors, be founded chiefly on unpublished material. May I, through *The Athenæum*, mention that I should be very glad to hear from any one who has manuscripts by Dr. Watts, or who is specially interested in the subject? A number of Watts MSS. have crossed the Atlantic, but many, I am glad to say, are still in this country. I am also particularly anxious to hear of any chap-books containing verses by Watts. I have one with quaint oval illustrations, but, unfortunately, it is imperfect.

THOMAS WRIGHT.

'BOOK REVIEWING À LA MODE.'

THE *New York Nation*, a paper distinguished alike for independence of view and sound learning, has a vigorous article in its number of August 17th on 'Book Reviewing à la Mode,' which is so timely at the present season that we venture to reproduce some of it. "It all began," says the writer,

"with the publisher who ventured to express his opinion, on the paper wrappers of the book, that the author's style carried a suggestion of Thackeray or Stevenson or Tolstoy, as the case might be. The deluge was upon us immediately. To-day it is the rule in publishers' notices that when a story is loose-jointed, sprightly, and at times ungrammatical, it marks its author as a worthy successor of Thackeray. When a story is replete with battle, murder, sudden death, and antique adjectives, it has the charm of Stevenson. When a story deals with 'real' people, that is, with financiers, politicians, hypocrites, misers, dreamers, lovers, and scoundrels, its author is immediately an American Balzac."

This kind of thing is bewildering, it is added, to many men of an older generation; but it awakens other sentiments too, not of wonder, but of sharp disgust:—

"These wild encomiums plastered on every shoddy novel not only tell lies about the present, they besmirch the honored past. While they are appraising Robinson's first novel in terms of Thackeray or Balzac, they are, of course, appraising Thackeray and Balzac in terms of Robinson. A vast body of consumers of fiction that do not know their Maupassant or their Tolstoy will henceforth cherish the belief that Maupassant is very much like Jones, and that Tolstoy is very much like Brown."

This country is no whit behind the United States in this sort of puffery, nor are there wanting reviewers over here who are ready to "play the assiduous parrot" to the publisher.

We have from time to time referred to some of these extravagant laudations in advance. Our wonder is that they continue to any degree to be "good business," for it must be dangerous to take in a public

which buys a book and finds itself grossly disappointed.

Of course, the best firms are incapable of this sort of misrepresentation; but we regret to see that the others make their way with their paragraphs into the press uncorrected, and are given the authority of the journals in which they appear. These wonderful dicta save trouble and expense. That, we suppose, is the reason for their wide dissemination. It is certainly not the elegance of their English or the lucidity of their phrasing.

Matters have reached such a pitch that one is almost glad to see paragraphs which have some regard for logic and show adequate knowledge reproduced without any acknowledgment of their source. Here a single adjective or a corrected date may represent the hard-won knowledge of the expert, but the law is, of course, indifferent to such niceties.

Another matter which deserves comment is the prevalence of Introductions, Prefaces, and Forewords, in which persons of respectable reputation pledge themselves for inferior stuff, supplying testimonials which ignore essential points. These introducers are not always authors themselves, though possibly experts in other lines; they may be merely anxious to do a kindly act, or make an appeal *ad misericordiam*; but the general effect of their commendations is to deceive the public, and play a critical part to which they are not entitled.

BRITISH MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Annual Report of the Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum for last year shows in considerable detail the progress made in every department. The total number of visitors was 739,837, which is not quite equal to that of 1908, the year of the Franco-British Exhibition, when the aggregate was the highest recorded. Last year 670,104 visited the Museum on weekdays, the highest figure since 1905; while the Sunday total of 69,733 is the highest on record with the exception of 1908, when so many foreigners were in London.

Great progress has been made on the Extension Building, the main external structure having been almost completed, while plans for the internal furniture and fittings were prepared. As many as 374,782 separate objects of all kinds have been incorporated in the collections of the several departments during the year, and in that of the Printed Books alone 52,172 catalogue titles have been written. In the Reading-Room, 1,472,278 volumes have been supplied to readers, and it is noteworthy that a certain proportion of the accessions to the general library have been made by international exchange.

The principal purchases in the Department of Printed Books have been incunabula, as many as fifty-nine books printed in the fifteenth century having been added; they include a copy of the valuable Zinna Psalter printed at the expense of the Emperors Frederick III. and Maximilian I. in 1495. A notable addition among later books is the only work of Milton which was not in the Library. The copy of the 'Catalogue of Paintings and Drawings in Buckingham Palace' that has been presented by the Lord Chamberlain would have been a more suitable and useful accession to the National

Art Library at South Kensington, which does not meet with the patronage and public support that it deserves.

We read of such widely divergent acquisitions by the British Museum in a single year as the autograph memorandum by Nelson of October 9th, 1805, explaining for the instructions of his captains his plan for attacking the French at Trafalgar; the Diaries of Romney; one hundred and fifty fragments of Coptic papyri; a remarkably fine and very long papyrus roll of 'The Book of the Dead' in hieratic characters, written about 980 B.C.; a large foundation deposit brick of Rameses II. from Bubastis; several examples of vases, inscribed tablets, and pottery; and sixty-five coins (some of great rarity, and dating from the middle of the second century) from a hoard found in Hampshire. It might escape public notice that the MS. Bibliography of Numismatics has been continued and brought up to date, while the series of forgeries of Greek coins has been expanded.

The Department of Prints and Drawings has been exceptionally fortunate in the generosity of George Salting, who bequeathed 227 drawings as well as 208 engravings, many of them being of the highest importance and value. Nor must the ancient Chinese paintings from the Wegener Collection, the collection of etchings of the late Sir Francis Seymour Haden, the Robert Low collection of drawings, or the engraved portraits presented by Lady Layard, be overlooked.

Among other benefactions the National Art Collections Fund secured for the Museum six fine designs by Alfred Stevens, whose fame in generations to come will be very considerably greater than that accorded by either private collectors or the general public to-day. It seems, however, that such designs as those for covered vases, cups, and plates would have been of greater utility in the Department of Engraving, Illustration, and Design at the Victoria and Albert Museum than in the Print-Room at Bloomsbury.

This Annual Report is scholarly in construction, easy to handle, and eminently suitable for the purposes for which it has been compiled.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

ENGLISH.

Theology.

Dictionary of Christian Biography and Literature to the End of the Sixth Century A.D., with an Account of the Principal Sects and Heresies, 21/ net.

This volume, edited by Henry Wace and William C. Piercy, makes available to a wider circle, alike of clergy and of laity, the service rendered to the learned world by 'The Dictionary of Christian Biography, Literature, Sects, and Doctrines,' published under the editorship of Dr. Wace and the late Dr. Wm. Smith, about twenty years ago, in four large volumes.

Fenwick (Malcolm C.), *The Church of Christ in Corea*, 3/6.

Jeffrey (Russell H.), *Village Sermons on Uncommon Texts*, 3/6 net.

Mellone (S. H.), *The Revelation of the Father*, 1d. No. 126 of the Unitarian Penny Library.

Purser (W. C. B.), *Christian Missions in Burma*, 2/ net.

This work is essentially that of a missionary in contradistinction to that of the traveller or Government official. A former Bishop of Rangoon, who contributes a preface, calls it "the Churchman's handbook of Burma."

Smith (Robinson), *A Consecutive Life of Christ: being a Fusion of the Four Gospels into One Chronological Narrative*, 3/6 net.

Trench (G. H.), *The Birth and Boyhood of Jesus Christ, with a Synchronistic Table of Eras and Chronological Table of Events 5 B.C. to 3 B.C.*, 3/6 net.

Has also notes and an index.

Wynne (G. Robert), *The Church in Greater Britain*, 1/6 net.

Third edition, revised, of the Donnellan Lectures delivered before the University of Dublin in 1900-1.

Law.

Pratt (Sisson C.), *The Military Law Examiner containing Questions set at Examinations up to July, 1911, together with Answers to them and References to the Official Books*, 4/6 net.

New edition, revised and corrected. A volume of Gale & Polden's Military Series.

Fine Art and Archaeology.

Binyon (Laurence), *The Flight of the Dragon: an Essay on the Theory and Practice of Art in China and Japan, based on Original Sources*, 2/ net.

A volume of the Wisdom of the East Series. The 14 short chapters treat of such subjects as the Chinese "Six Canons"; Rhythm; Relation of Man to Nature; Landscape and Flowers; the Dragon; Technique; and Colour.

Blagg (Thos. M.), *A Guide to the Antiquities of Newark and the Churches of Holme and Hawton*, 6d.

Second edition, with many illustrations.

Bumpus (T. Francis), *The Cathedrals of Central Italy*, 16/ net.

Burma Archaeological Survey, *Report of the Superintendent for the Year ending 31 March, 1911*.

Chambers (J.), *The Stone Age and Lake Loughing*. The book is based on the works of eminent authors, and an attempt is made to ascertain the etymology of some local names.

Harrison (Frederick), *Notes on Sussex Churches*, 1/8 net.

With 36 illustrations.

Valletta Museum, *Annual Report of the Curator for the Financial Year 1910-11*.

Poetry and Drama.

Chesterton (G. K.), *The Ballad of the White Horse*, 5/

In 8 Books, with a Prefatory Note by the author.

Leonard (Elizabeth), *Verses of Long Ago*, 2/6 net.

A collection of about 60 short poems.

O Sheel (Shaemas), *The Blossomy Bough*, 1s.

A collection of over 80 short poems in two groups.

Scott (Lady John), *Songs and Verses*, 5/ net.

The poems are grouped under the following headings, Places, Historical, Jacobite, Ballads, Foreign, Hymns, Family, Personal, and have been edited, with a Memoir, by the author's grand-niece Margaret Warrender.

Philosophy.

Barrett (E. Boyd), *Motive-Force and Motivation-Tracks: a Research in Will Psychology*, 6/ net.

Bergson (Henri), *La Perception du Changement: Conférences faites à l'Université d'Oxford les 26 et 27 Mai*, 1/6 net.

Political Economy.

Ashley (W. J.), *The Tariff Problem*, 3/6 net.

Third edition, with the additional chapter of the second edition, a new introduction, and numerous statistical tables.

Studies in Economic Relations of Women: Vol. I. Vocations for the Trained Woman, 6/ net; Vol. II. Labour Laws and their Enforcement, 9/ net; Vol. III. The Living Wage of Women Workers, 5/ net.

History and Biography.

Academy of Pacific Coast History: Vol. II., No. 1, *The Portola Expedition of 1769-1770: Diary of Vicente Vila*, edited by Robert Selden Rose; No. 2, *Papers of the San Francisco Committee of Vigilance of 1851*, edited by Porter Garnett.

Angeli (Helen Rossetti), *Shelley and his Friends in Italy*, 10/6 net.

Deals with the poet and his English and Italian associates in Italy between 1818 and the date of his death, and has 16 coloured illustrations.

Black (Clementina), *The Linleys of Bath*, 16/ net.

The author has had access to original letters, and the volume contains 17 portrait illustrations.

Blackburn (Douglas) and Caddell (Capt. W. Waithman), *Secret Service in South Africa*, 10/6 net.

Revelations concerning espionage, gun-running, illicit diamond-buying, the Kafir as a spy and detective, &c., in the Boer War.

Close Rolls of the Reign of Henry III. preserved in the Public Record Office, 1237-42, 15/ Haggard (Lieut.-Col. Andrew C. P.), *The France of Joan of Arc*, 16/ net.

With 17 illustrations.

Islandica: an Annual relating to Iceland and the Fiske Icelandic Collection in Cornell University Library, edited by George William Harris: Vol. IV. *The Ancient Laws of Norway and Iceland*, by Halldór Hermannsson, 1s.

Zimmern (Alfred E.), *The Greek Commonwealth: Politics and Economics in Fifth-Century Athens*, 8/6 net.

The author has tried to convey his own vision of ancient Greece in the form of a study of the nature, influence, and interaction of two great forces in Athenian life, viz., geographical and economic conditions. He has endeavoured to make his book useful to students as well as the general reader.

Geography and Travel.

Home (Gordon), *Motor Routes of England: Western Section and Wales*, 5/

The third of the series of the author's Motor Route Books. Essential facts are given in tabulated form at the beginning of each section of the route, under the headings (1) Distances along the road; (2) Notes for drivers; (3) Interesting objects (a) on the road, (b) off the road, with maps of each portion of the route and plans of 17 of the larger towns, and 16 full-page illustrations in colour.

Hutton (Edward), *A Book of the Wye, with 20 Illustrations in Colour by A. R. Quinton*, 7/6 net.

The author's intention in this work has been not to describe the beauty of the Wye valley—that he has left to the artist—but to provide a discourse concerning the road, the ways of the river, the towns, villages, castles, churches, abbeys, &c.

Philips' New Historical Atlas for Students, by Ramsay Muir, 9/ net.

A series of 65 plates containing 154 coloured maps and diagrams, with an introduction illustrated by 43 maps and plans in black and white.

Pottle (Emery), *The Little Village*, 3/6 net.

Life in an Italian village. Whitaker (Cuthbert Wilfrid), *An Illustrated Historical, Statistical, and Topographical Account of the Urban District of Enfield*.

With maps of the district, and over 100 illustrations from engravings, original sketches, and photographs.

Sports and Pastimes.

Hughes (Henry), *Golf for the Late Beginner*, 1/ net.

The author, a late beginner himself, endeavours to explain the correct methods of playing the various strokes. The reasons for the movements and the causes of failure are concisely stated. The book is illustrated by 32 photographs taken by James Hepburn, the well-known golf professional.

Folk-Lore.

Crossing (William), *Folk Rhymes of Devon Notices of Metrical Sayings found in the Lore of the People*, 4/6 net.

Philology.

Hempl (George), *Early Etruscan Inscriptions*, Fabretti 2343-6.

A paper reprinted from the Matzke Memorial Volume published by the Stanford University, California.

Journal of English and Germanic Philology, July, 1911.

Edited by Julius Goebel.

Middle English Treatise on the Ten Commandments, edited, with Notes and an Introduction, by James Finch-Royster: Part II. Introduction.

Forms Vol. VIII. of the Studies in Philology published under the direction of the Philological Club of the University of North Carolina.

School-Books.

Edser (Edwin), *General Physics for Students: a Text-Book on the Fundamental Properties of Matter*, 7/6

With numerous illustrations and diagrams. Keatinge (M. W.) and Frazer (N. L.), *A History of England for Schools, with Documents, Problems, and Exercises*, 2/6

The aim of the authors has been to compress into some 730 pages a fairly comprehensive narrative of English history and a collection of documents illustrative of the more important events.

Sand (George), *Les Dames Vertes*, 2/6

Adapted and edited by Eugène Pellissier for Siepmann's French Series.

Unstead (J. F.) and Taylor (E. G. R.), *Geography of the British Isles*, 1/6

Young (Ernest) and Fairgrieve (J.), *A Class-Book of Practical Geography*, 1/6

The practical portions of the same authors' 'Rational Geography' amplified and enlarged in response to the request of many teachers, with numerous maps and diagrams.

Science.

Astronomical Society, General Index to the Monthly Notices, Vols. 53-70, 1892-1910, together with General Index to Illustrations in the Memoirs, Vols. 1-59, and the Monthly Notices, Vols. 1-70, 1822-1910, with an Appendix, List of Comets 1892-1910, 5/

Busk (H. G.), *What Will the Weather Be? The Amateur Forecaster's Vade Mecum*, 6d. net.

Second edition. A series of tables intended to enable the non-scientific reader to forecast the weather by his own observations. Notes are added by Mr. H. B. Stone.

Claxton (William J.), *Round the Year with Nature*, 7/6 net.

With 200 illustrations from photographs, and 24 coloured plates from paintings by Maude Umphreville Clarke.

Dutton (J. T.), *Conic Template*, in Celluloid, 8d. net.

Evans (A. H.), *A Fauna of the Tweed Area*, 30/

Forms Vol. XI. of a Vertebrate Fauna of Scotland.

Grew (Edwin Sharpe), *The Growth of a Planet*, 6/

In this volume an attempt is made to summarize the modern theories which endeavour to explain the origin, formation, and growth of the units of the solar system. There are 9 illustrations and numerous diagrams.

McDermaid (Neil J.), *Shipyard Practice as applied to Warship Construction*, 12/6 net.

Reed (John Oren) and Guthe (Karl Eugen), *College Physics*, 12/ net.

By two American Professors, with many illustrations and diagrams.

Smithsonian Institution: Publication 2013, *Opinions rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*, Opinions 30-37.

United States National Herbarium: Vol. 13, Part 10, *Miscellaneous Papers*, by Albert W. C. T. Herre, William H. Brown, Joseph H. Painter, Paul C. Standley, Edward S. Steele, and E. A. Goldman; Part 11, *The Alliaceae of Mexico and Central America*, by Paul C. Standley.

United States National Museum: *Proceedings*, Vol. 39; No. 1857, *Descriptions of Three New Batrachians from Costa Rica and Panama*, by Leonhard Stejneger.

Juvenile Books.

Walker (Mrs. Louisa), *The Robbie Books*: I. *Robbie's First Holiday*; II. *Robbie at the Seaside*; III. *Robbie in London*; IV. *Robbie on the River*, 3d. each.

Fiction.

Castle (Agnes and Egerton), *The Lost Iphigenia*, 6/

For notice see p. 265.

Dawson (Coningsby), *The Road to Avalon*, 6/

Written in allegorical style the story describes a quest and its achievement. The many characters bear name-labels after the style of 'The Pilgrim's Progress.'

Deeping (Warwick), *Fox Farm*, 6/

A story of the love of a blind man for a girl, partly dealing with the pleasures of vagabondage on "the open road."

Donovan (Dick), *The Fatal Woman*, 6/

The heroine, a princess, formerly an actress, entangles no fewer than five men in her meshes.

Düring (Stella M.), *Love's Privilege*, 6/

A story of mystery in which a servant takes his dead master's place.

Fuller (Caroline), *The Bramble Bush*, 6/

An amusing American love-story in which two pairs of lovers are happily united and two long-lost relatives found.

Gibbs (George), *The Bolted Door*, 6/

An American society story.

Giberne (Agnes), *Val and his Friends*, 2/6 net.

A missionary story which has appeared in abbreviated form in *The King's Messengers*; it seeks to introduce a representative Indian boy.

Haggard (H. Rider), *Red Eve*, 6/

The story of "Red Eve, the dauntless, and of Murgh, Gateway of the Gods, whose dreadful galley still sails from East to West and from West to East."

Keith (Marian), *Lizbeth of the Dale*, 6/

A story of a Scottish family in Canada.

Machray (Robert), *The Woman Wins*, 6/

A lady dies from poison in a flat at Hampstead. Suspicion falls on two brothers very much alike, but one goes abroad and is supposed to be dead. His brother takes up the case and proves an alibi. Later a letter is found in which the lady says she was tired of life and took poison.

Meade (L. T.), *The Soul of Margaret Rand*, 6/

Loss of money by the heroine, due to a strange will, and her secret marriage cause her to persuade a friend to go to England and impersonate her.

Niven (Frederick), *Above your Heads*, 6/

Sixteen short stories.

Osbourne (Lloyd), *The Kingdoms of the World*, 6/

The story turns on an extraordinary affair that was the talk of Europe in the eighties, and has never been satisfactorily cleared up.

Reynolds (Mrs. Baillie), *The Notorious Miss Lisle*, 6/

The notoriety of the heroine is due to her connexion with a divorce case. Her innocence is however eventually proved.

Stewart (Newton V.), *The Cardinal*, 6/

A romance dealing with the thirteenth century, Pope Innocent and other leading figures of that period playing a part in the story.

Thackeray's Works: *Ballads and Verses*; and *The English Humourists*, 10/6 net each.

Part of the Harry Furness Centenary Edition.

Vance (Louis Joseph), *No Man's Land: a Romance*, 6/

A tale of murder and romance on the coast of Massachusetts.

Wells (Paul), *The Man with an Honest Face*, 6/

The autobiography of a man entrusted with a mysterious package, in defending which he meets with a series of adventures. The scene is laid in New York.

Widdrington (Ralph), *Tales out of School*, 1/ net.

A series of tales suggested to the author by the recent publication of a notorious "circular" concerning elementary teachers in this country. They are substantially stories of fact from elementary schools.

General Literature.

Ditchfield (P. H.), *Out of the Ivory Palaces*, 6/

Contains sections on the Palace of Home, the Family Deed Chest, the Palace of Books, &c.

Hall (Thornton), *Love Romances of the Aristocracy*, 12/6 net.

Modern World, No. 1, August, 8/ annually.

A new monthly devoted to politics, science, literature, art, and philosophy, issued at Madras.

Parting of the Ways; or, Conquest by Purchase, by the author of 'Letters from a Veiled Politician,' 1/6 net.

The author, who is strongly opposed to the present Government, discusses the political conditions of the day.

Pamphlets.

Blane (Gilbert G.), *A New System of Government*, 2d.

A scheme to abolish the present Party system, and through it the power of Groups and Coalitions.

FOREIGN.

Theology.

Jastrow (M.), *Die Religion Babylonien und Assyrien*, Part 17, 1m. 50.

Zorell (F.), *Novi Testamenti Lexicon Græcum*, Parts 2 and 3, 8m.

Philology.

Fischer (H.), *Schwäbisches Wörterbuch*, Vol. III., 37m.

Köhler (J.) u. Ungnad (A.), *Hundert ausgewählte Rechtsurkunden aus der Spätzeit des babylonischen Schrifttums von Xerxes bis Mithridates II.*, 5m.

* * All books received at the Office up to Wednesday Morning will be included in this List unless previously noted. Publishers are requested to state prices when sending books.

Literary Gossip.

ONE of the most interesting books of the season should be 'Tennyson and his Friends,' edited by Hallam, Lord Tennyson, and published by Messrs. Macmillan. The volume begins with 'Early Reminiscences' by Emily, Lady Tennyson, and ends with the Appreciation delivered by the late Prof. Butler before the British Academy. A host of friends and specialists are contributing to the volume. Thus the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, contributes recollections of Tennyson,

and Mr. W. Aldis Wright considers his relations with Spedding; the late H. G. Dakyns writes on Tennyson, Clough, and the Classics; while Sir Charles Stanford writes on the musical side, and Sir Oliver Lodge the scientific side, of the poet.

MR. GEORGE MOORE will publish this autumn, through Mr. Heinemann, the first volume of his autobiography during the last ten years, dealing with his native country. The book is to be entitled 'Hail and Farewell,' and will give a survey of society, arts, and letters in Dublin during the period.

The same publisher announces two other autobiographies—one by Mr. J. E. Patterson, entitled 'My Vagabondage'; and another, a revelation of an East-End man, by George Acorn, entitled 'One of the Multitude,' with a Preface by Mr. A. C. Benson.

THE second volume of 'Essays and Studies' issued by the English Association will be published by the Clarendon Press this autumn. Canon Beeching is editing it, and the contributions will include 'The Grand Style Again,' by Mr. John Bailey, a supplement, we presume, to Prof. Saintsbury's article in the earlier volume; 'Richardson's Novels and their Influence,' by Dr. F. S. Boas; 'Jane Austen,' by Dr. A. C. Bradley; and 'Description in Poetry,' by Mr. A. Clutton Brock.

MESSRS. HARPER will publish for Mr. Edward Legge on the 12th inst. 'The Comedy and Tragedy of the Second Empire: Paris Society in the Sixties.' The volume will include letters of Napoleon III., the Comte de la Chapelle, and M. Franceschini Pietri, and portraits of the period.

THE publication of Canon Horsley's volume of reminiscences, 'I Remember,' has been delayed through the recent strikes. The book will be issued by Messrs. Wells Gardner, Darton & Co. about the end of this month.

MESSRS. HEADLEY BROTHERS are publishing for Mr. Reginald Farrer 'Among the Hills: a Book of joy in High Places,' illustrated in colour from original flower studies by Mrs. Addington Symonds and Mr. George Soper.

MR. MARTIN SECKER's new list includes 'Grahame of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee,' by Mr. Michael Barrington, who claims to have written an "exhaustive work"; 'The Real Captain Cleveland,' by Mr. Allan Fea, who has brought new research to the study of the prototype Scott used in 'The Pirate'; and 'Thomas Love Peacock: a Critical Study,' by Mr. A. Martin Freeman.

The same publisher has in hand the 'Carmina Varia' of Mr. C. K. Burrow.

WE review this week a selection of Cowper's letters. Another is promised by Messrs. Macmillan, which will be edited by Dr. J. G. Frazer, and will occupy two volumes in the delightful "Eversley Series."

THE 'Poetry' this month in *The English Review* is largely of the neat cameo order. Mr. Arnold Bennett has a striking little sketch of a first view of country life, 'Watling Street: a Memory'; and Mr. Christopher Stone a good story, 'The Tutor,' of a clumsy, awkward Oxford man, who is bullied by a pupil and a parent. 'The Handling of Words (Thomas Hardy)' is an examination in detail of part of the text of 'Tess,' by Vernon Lee. We welcome such study, but do not think that the critic is happy in some of her comments.

The Nineteenth Century for this month has articles on 'The Hybrid Art,' a discussion of the bounds of prose and poetry and 'The Agonists' of Mr. Hewlett, by Mr. Morton Luce; 'A Master of the Horse,' a lively account of the fourth Earl of Albemarle by Mrs. A. M. W. Stirling; and 'The Speech of the Roads,' by Mr. David MacRitchie, President of the Gypsy Lore Society.

MESSRS. SMITH & ELDER have acquired Messrs. Hutchinson's interest in Mr. Stanley Weyman's novel 'Starvecrow Farm,' with the exception of the sixpenny edition, and the book will be published by them in future.

In the new *Fortnightly* the literary articles, apart from a study of the new Irish School by K. L. Montgomery, entitled 'Some Writers of the Celtic Renaissance,' are confined to French writers. In 'Racine in the Dock' M. Augustin Filon examines the depreciatory life of the poet by M. Masson-Forestier, his great-grandson; Mr. Francis Gribble is lively concerning Théophile Gautier, whom he describes as "the Freshman of the Romantic Movement"; and 'Remy de Gourmont' is regarded by Mr. Arthur Ransome as a versatile writer and thinker known only to a few in this country.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Enfield:—

"Perhaps your reviewer of the 'Recollections of an Irish Doctor' in *The Athenæum* of August 26th may be interested to know that the doggerel of 'A knife and a clod,' &c., is to be found (though with a slight variation) in the story of 'The Hedge School' in 'Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry':—

A turf and a clod spells Nebuchod;
A knife and a razor spells Nebachodnazure;
Three pairs of boots and five pairs of shoes
Spells Nebuchodnazure, the King of the Jews.

Though we were Londoners, so familiar was the jingle to us as children, that my youngest sister, on being examined in Scripture history as to who was Nebuchadnezzar at once answered, 'The king of the Jews,' and, on being told she was in error, replied, "Well, it says he was!"

WE regret to record the death, at Kelso, on August 29th, of Miss Anna M. Stoddart at the age of 74. The only daughter of Tom Stoddart, the "Angler Poet of the Tweed," Miss Stoddart was from the first a member of a literary set. For a time she lived in London, and there taught and wrote much. Her works include the 'Lives' of her close friends

Prof. Blackie, Mrs. Bishop the traveller, Mrs. Pease Nichol, and Miss Hannah Pipe. She also wrote biographies of St. Francis of Assisi and Sir Philip Sidney, and a monograph on Jacopone da Todi. She was preparing a life of Paracelsus at the time of her death.

WE much regret to hear of the fire in Messrs. Ward, Lock & Co.'s premises in Dorset Street on Wednesday last. The extent of the damage is serious, but not such, we believe, as to lead to any cessation of business.

MR. RATHMELL WILSON's new novel 'Crimson Wings' is to be published by Messrs. Greening & Co. in the autumn.

MESSRS. JORDAN & SONS will issue shortly for Mr. W. John Dixon a third edition of his treatise on 'The Law and Practice of Probate and Administration in Common Form and Contentious Business.' The book has a new 'Foreword' by Sir S. T. Evans, who says that it shows "remarkable powers of condensation and arrangement."

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL has recently put up the following inscription at 15, Johnson Street, Somers Town: "Charles Dickens, novelist, lived here in his boyhood."

When Dickens's father left the Marshalsea in 1825, he removed to this humble home after lodging with a lady in Little College Street who was the prototype of Mrs. Pipchin. Dickens himself was rejoicing in school life after his miserable experiences in the blacking factory.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON has accepted the dedication of Mrs. Nugent Jackson's new volume of 'Gordon League Ballads,' which will be published by Messrs. Skeffington early this month.

ONE of the most important rarities in the portion of the Hoe Library to be dispersed this autumn will be a copy of the 1504 edition of the letters of Americus Vespuccius. Only four, or at most five, examples of this edition have been recorded, and all traces of two of them have been lost. The copy in the Grenville Library at the British Museum is believed to have come from the Heber library, but this is uncertain. Mr. Hoe's example was in Dr. Court's library, and passed through the hands of the late Mr. Quaritch and Charles Kalbfleisch of New York into the American collection.

NEXT MONDAY has been fixed for a Conference in the Council Room of University College, London, in which representatives of the British and American Simplified Spelling Societies will take part. Mr. William Archer will act as Secretary.

THE announcement of the translation of the Bishop of Birmingham to the see of Oxford will, no doubt, be a cause of delight and congratulation for many old friends in the academic city, as well as an addition to the advocates of reform. Still, we cannot help regretting that he is leaving a see that was his own creation,

and a centre of crowded humanity where his influence was wide and notable. Our feelings are, in fact, those aroused by the spectacle of a head master who has made a great school passing readily to another.

THE law of libel as at present applied to newspapers formed the chief subject of discussion at the meeting of the Institute of Journalists last Monday. The Bill prepared in consultation with the Newspaper Society and the Federation of Northern Newspaper Owners is, we learn, now in the hands of Sir George Toulmin.

MR. JOHN BEAL of Brighton, whose death at the age of 79 is announced, took an active part in the development of the circulation of provincial newspapers. It is a far cry from the motor-driven distribution system of to-day to the times when as a lad Mr. Beal would await the arrival of *The West Sussex Gazette* by coach. Owing to the handicap of the Government stamp, it was then as much the business of a newsagent to lend papers as to sell them.

THIS WEEK'S *Notes and Queries* begins a list of 'Statues and Memorials in the British Isles' to men of letters. Among those commemorated are Boswell, Cædmon, Chatterton, John Clare, Gray, Marlowe, and Ouida.

THE centenary of the birth of Théophile Gautier has been fittingly celebrated by that excellent weekly, *Les Annales*. The special number contains not only a varied selection of criticisms, anecdotes, and souvenirs by MM. Emile Faguet, Paul Bourget, and Jules Claretie, and others, but also a wealth of illustrations in the form of portraits, caricatures, autographs, &c.

THE death in his 55th year is announced from Leipsic of the Professor of Dogmatics, Dr. Otto Kirn, author of 'Goethes Lebensweisheit in ihrem Verhältnis zum Christentum,' 'Grundriss der Theologischen Ethik,' and 'Sittliche Lebensanschauung der Gegenwart.'

THE death is also announced of Signor Ongania, well known as a publisher in Venice. Helped by Ruskin's influence, he reproduced all the mosaics in St. Mark's Church, a great and costly undertaking. A book on the well-heads of Venice, issued in commemoration of his jubilee as a publisher, was one of the works he brought out concerning the city.

THE career of the Egyptologist, Prof. J. E. Lieblein, whose death at the age of 84 is reported from Christiania, might be summed up in the phrase, From sawmill to University. Till his 20th year he was a workman at the sawmills; later he became a clerk, and not till his 28th year was he able to attain his ambition and become a student at the University of Christiania. In 1876 he was appointed Professor at that University. Among his works are 'Deux Papyrus hiératiques du Musée de Turin' and 'Gammel-ägyptisk Religion.'

SCIENCE

Address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, delivered at Portsmouth, 1911. By Prof. Sir William Ramsay, K.C.B., President.

SIR WILLIAM RAMSAY'S Presidential Address differs from those of some of his immediate predecessors in that it shows welcome evidence of careful arrangement of parts and attention to literary style. Perhaps these qualities would have been even more marked had it not been for the obligation in some measure imposed upon the President of the British Association to refer to matters which are not very closely connected with the main subject of his address, but which are supposed to engage public attention at the time. Thus, while the kernel of Sir William Ramsay's address was his masterly survey of the ancient and modern views regarding the chemical elements, he found himself compelled, on the one hand, to introduce this by the usual appeal for money for research, and notices of the eminent men of science who have died since the last meeting, and, on the other, to supplement it by some practical remarks as to the preservation of our Coal Supply. The result was seriously to cramp the space allotted to the subject on which he spoke as a master, and on which his audience would, it is conceived, have most willingly listened to him; and it may be worth the consideration of future Presidents whether it would not be advantageous to divide their addresses into two parts, one dealing with general matters, and the other with special topics, the two parts being delivered with a greater or less interval between them.

Very early in his address Sir William devotes himself to the question of education in science, which he thinks is conducted among us in a sufficiently wasteful manner.

"In England," he said, "we have made technical education a local, not an Imperial question; instead of half a dozen first-rate institutions of University rank, we have a hundred in which the institutions are necessarily understaffed, in which the staffs are mostly overworked and underpaid; and the training given is that not for captains of industry, but for workmen and foremen. Efficient captains cannot be replaced by a large number of fairly good corporals. Moreover, to induce scholars to enter these institutions, they are bribed by scholarships, a form of pauperization practically unknown in every country but our own; and, to crown the edifice, we test results by examinations of a kind not adapted to gauge originality and character (if, indeed, these can ever be tested by examination), instead of, as on the Continent and in America, trusting the teachers to form an honest estimate of the capacity and ability of each student, and awarding honours accordingly."

The remedy that he suggests for this state of things is, so far as we know, original. He proposes that every recipient of a University scholarship, bursary, or fellowship should undertake to repay the money thus acquired "if and when circumstances permit." On this, he calculates that an insurance company would be willing to advance more than six million pounds, a large part of which should be spent in increasing the emoluments of University professors; and he thinks that the "testing" of their pupils should then be left to them. Thus, he says,

"the modern system of 'external examinations,' known only in this country, and answerable for much of its lethargy, would disappear; schools of thought would arise in all subjects, and the intellectual as well as the industrial prosperity of our nation would be assured."

We have no doubt that Sir William Ramsay has convinced himself that such an advance could be obtained, although the margin of 20 per cent which he allows for non-payment seems small in view of the fact that the legal enforcement of the undertaking to repay would be full of difficulties. Yet it remains to be proved whether the bait of an increased salary would, as he thinks, really attract the "best intellects of the country" into the teaching profession; and whether, if it did, they would necessarily produce better results than those obtained under the present system. After all, the capacity for teaching can no more be acquired at will than that for learning.

Passing from this highly controversial subject to his own special study, Sir William gives an excellent summary of the history of the chemical elements—a word which he defined as meaning "the constituent of a compound"—from Greek times until now, and shows how the approximate determination of their atomic weights led to the revival of the classical view of the essential unity of matter, or that the atomic weights of all elements are multiples of some primal substance. Sir William tells us that

"every year an international committee publishes a table in which the most probable numbers are given, on the basis of the atomic weight of oxygen being taken as sixteen. In the table for 1911, of eighty-one elements no fewer than forty-three have recorded atomic weights within one-tenth of a unit above or below an integral number. My mathematical colleague Karl Pearson assures me that the probability against such a condition being fortuitous is 20,000 millions to one."

He then explains the discovery by John Newlands, published in 1863,

"of what he termed his law of octaves—that every eighth element, like the octave of a musical note, is in some measure a repetition of its forerunner. Thus, just as C on the third space is the octave of C below the line, so potassium, in 1863 the eighth known element numerically above sodium, repeats the characters of sodium, not only in its physical properties—colour, softness, ductility, malleability, &c.—but also in the

characters of its compounds, which, indeed, resemble each other very closely. The same fundamental notion was reproduced at a later date, and independently, by Lothar Meyer and Dmitri Mendeléeff; and to accentuate the recurrence of such similar elements in periods, the expression 'the periodic system of arranging the elements' was applied to Newlands's arrangement in octaves. As every one knows, by help of this arrangement Mendeléeff predicted the existence of then unknown elements, under the name of eka-boron, eka-aluminium, and eka-silicon, since named scandium, gallium, and germanium by their discoverers Cleve, Lecoq de Boisbaudran, and Winckler."

Sir William next mentions the "rare earths," or oxides of metals all more or less resembling lanthanum, the atomic weights of which are somewhere between 139 and 180, but which up to the present defy arrangement in the Periodic Table; and he then refers to the inert gases of the atmosphere, the greater part of which he has discovered himself, although, with rare modesty, he refrains from saying so, passing over them in a few lines. He says, however, that Johnstone Stoney's "spiral curve of the elements" in 1888 gave a forecast of these inert gases, and he points out that they form a link between the strongly electro-negative elements like sodium and potassium, and the strongly electro-positive like fluorine and chlorine, while they are themselves electrically as well as chemically neutral and inert.

The upshot of this is that between the eighty-four elements, including radium, almost the only gaps in the Periodic Table are the seventeen spaces between the 139 of lanthanum and the 181 of tantalum, which, Sir William seems to consider, may eventually be filled by the rare earths, already fourteen in number. As he does not think it likely that anything heavier than uranium, with an atomic weight of (roughly) 238, is likely to be discovered, there will still remain, according to him, several gaps in the table. Yet the discovery of radio-activity, which he assigns to Henri Becquerel, and its supplement in the disintegration theory of Prof. Rutherford and Mr. Soddy, have lately given us twenty-six so-called "elements" hitherto unknown. How are these to be fitted into Mendeléeff's list?

The answer which Sir William supplies is that the new substances are not in fact elements at all, or are so only within the compass of the very extended meaning which he has already given to the word as signifying the constituent of a compound. Radium, he says, is "an undoubted element" with an atomic weight of about 226, and, as such, it fits into the Periodic Table between bismuth (208) and thorium (roughly 233). But, unlike most other elements, it is unstable, and disintegrates spontaneously into the "emanation" which Sir William has christened niton, and helium. Niton in its turn disintegrates into Radium A and helium; Radium A into Radium B and helium; Radium B into Radium C and helium; Radium C into Radium C² and helium; and Radium C² into Radium D, this time parting with electrons

as well. Radium D passes into Radium E "without parting with anything detectable"; and Radium E turns into Radium F or polonium, which in its turn changes into helium and some unknown metal which is probably lead. As the original radium has thus lost five helium atoms, and the atomic weight of helium is (roughly) 4, the atomic weight should therefore be reduced by these changes from 226 to 206. The atomic weight of lead is, however, not 206, but 207, and Sir William suggests that we should get over the difficulty by assuming that the weight of radium before its changes is 227, and not 226.

A similar difficulty attends not the descendants, but the ancestor of this modern Proteus. It is, Sir William says, "practically certain" that the progenitor of radium is uranium, and that it parts with three atoms of helium to transform itself into the lighter metal. But the atomic weight of uranium is about 239, and 12, or the weight of three atoms of helium, deducted from this would leave 227, whereas the atomic weight of radium is, as we have seen, 226. Sir William tells us that in the supposed change from uranium to radium some electrons are lost, that "electrons have weight," and that, if we imagine these electrons numerous enough to account for the difference required, there is no discrepancy between the recorded and the theoretical loss of weight during the change. He offers no clue to the process by which he arrives at the weight of an electron; but his skill as an experimenter with extremely minute quantities of matter is so well known that we can trust his conviction to be well founded.

This brings him to a solution—suggested, as he is careful to point out, rather than asserted—of the problem enunciated above as to the difficulty of fitting the twenty-six new elements or pseudo-elements derived from uranium, thorium, and actinium into the Periodic Table. The suggestion is that the loss (or gain) of electrons on the change of one of these products into another may alter their atomic weight to an almost inappreciable extent without altering their more recognizable characteristics. Thus we can explain the phenomenon of allotropy, or the possession by bodies of the same chemical constitution, but different physical properties, besides the many fractional irregularities of the Periodic Table. In brief, Sir William Ramsay suggests that, of the twenty-six new elements requiring a place therein, ten which are formed by the emission of electrons without helium atoms are allotropes, while for the remainder there are gaps waiting to be filled.

This completes the theoretical part of Sir William's address; but before concluding, he drew the attention of his audience to the practical side of the disintegration theory. The expulsion of the helium atom from radium is accompanied by the output of such enormous energy that a ton

of radium—if it could ever be utilized—could be made to do the work of a million and a half tons of coal. That it can never be used for the same purposes seems clear from Sir William's own remark that the production of the precious metal will never surpass half an ounce a year. But he thinks that, "if some form of catalyzer could be discovered which would usefully increase the almost inconceivably slow rate of change" of the highly radio-active substances, "then it is not too much to say that the whole future of our race would be altered." He says:—

"The whole progress of the human race has indeed been due to individual members discovering means of concentrating energy, and of transforming one form into another. The carnivorous animals strike with their paws and crush with their teeth; the first man who aided his arm with a stick in striking a blow discovered how to concentrate his small supply of kinetic energy; the first man who used a spear found that its sharp point in motion represented a still more concentrated form.... The preparation of oxygen by Priestley applied energy to oxide of mercury in the form of heat; Davy improved on this when he concentrated electrical energy into the tip of a thin wire by aid of a powerful battery, and isolated potassium and sodium."

In an earlier passage he makes very brief mention of his own efforts to apply the energy disengaged by the disintegration of niton to effect the "degradation" of copper, zirconium, and other elements into "lower" members of the same chemical families.

The lesson he would draw from this is that we ought to be more careful than we are of the stored-up energy available in our coal supply. This, at the present rate of consumption, will come to an end, according to the figures he quotes from the Report of the Royal Commission of five years ago, in 175 years. He suggests that attention should be paid to national forestry and the use of our stores of peat, while he points out that turbine engines are more economical in use than reciprocating ones, and gas-engines than either. The best way of economizing our coal supply would be, he says, the conversion of it into electrical energy at the pit's mouth, and the distribution of this as current at high potential. Finally, he pleads that we ought to imitate the Americans and have a permanent Commission to take stock annually of the amount of coal still available and to lessen its waste. It is well we should be reminded of such things, although, with the difficulties at present attending legislation, it seems in some sort a counsel of perfection.

Generally, it may be said that Sir William Ramsay's address deserves to be read for its own sake. In the ground that it covers, the simplicity of its language, and the interest of its special subject, it is more than equal to the occasion, and should take high rank among the eighty addresses to which the Association has listened since its inauguration in 1831.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

A New Geometry. By W. M. Baker and A. A. Bourne. (Bell & Sons.)—Eight years have elapsed since Messrs. Baker and Bourne joined the ranks of those whom Lewis Carroll dubbed Euclid's modern rivals. Their 'Elementary Geometry' has met with considerable success as a school textbook, but the desire to fall in with the Board of Education circular of 1909 and shorten their course has led them to publish the book which lies before us. Of its general lines we approve heartily, but there are some features, certain of which we have noticed in other recent works on the subject, which call for comment.

The first detail we wish to discuss is the note on the definition of a straight line: "A straight line is a line which lies evenly between its extreme points. We see, therefore, that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line." This is a statement which we should have accepted without comment had the word "therefore" been omitted, but that word compels us to point out that the word "evenly" does not convey more to us than the word "straight"; certainly the most that it implies is the uniqueness of the straight line between two points. To ascertain that one line is less than another we must have first of all a test of equality, and then a demonstration that one line is equal to a part of the other. Euclid supplies this demonstration; the modern rival generally leaves it out. On the score of pedagogy he is right, but then he must be careful not to put in an unjustifiable "therefore."

On the next page the authors state: "It is generally assumed that all right angles are equal, but it is capable of proof as follows." Euclid's editors point out, however, that he probably introduced this statement as a postulate to indicate what we now call the homogeneity of space. It is easy for us to see that in a fluid world, where the very notion of a rigid body is unknown, it would be impossible to think of carrying right angles from one plane to another for comparison.

The theory of parallels is treated in the book before us on Euclidean lines, although we anticipated, when we saw that the authors defined angle as amount of turning, that they would use the idea of direction for defining parallels. In order not to quote explicitly a theorem about congruent triangles they give a rather long proof that if one side of a triangle be produced, the exterior angle is greater than either of the interior opposite angles. The proof is surely too difficult for Proposition 4 in the book; as printed, there is a somewhat serious slip, the word "for" being accidentally substituted for "and as." There is one detail in this proof which was not put in explicitly by Euclid, but which ought to be brought out clearly in view of modern controversies. It is stated that a certain line must fall within a certain angle, and this depends on the postulate or definition that two straight lines intersect in one point only. It is interesting to attempt the proof for a spherical triangle, and to notice that its failure is due to the fact that a pair of great circles cut in two points.

In this connexion we should like to protest against the almost universal custom of talking of Playfair's "axiom." Let us have Playfair's postulate or convention or induction. Every result in the theory of parallels is to many minds almost too

obvious for proof; but when you start with the negative definition "Parallel straight lines are straight lines... which never meet," it is not really a self-evident truth that "two intersecting straight lines cannot both be parallel to a third straight line," so the word "axiom" is surely not well chosen.

Another proposition which we always examine carefully in modern textbooks is the fundamental one in the theory of area, viz., the area of a rectangle is the product of the length and the breadth, or, more accurately, the number of units of length in the length multiplied by the number in the breadth will give the number of units of area in the rectangle. There are three important cases of this theorem, as the number of times a side of the rectangle contains the unit of length may be integral, fractional, or irrational. It is generally agreed that the irrational case should be accepted without strict proof in an elementary course, as the ideas involved are somewhat difficult; but there seems to be no valid reason for leaving out the fractional case. Messrs. Baker and Bourne prove the integral case alone, and apparently assume the universal validity of the theorem without further comment. As the authors follow Euclid in basing the theory of similar triangles on the theorem that the areas of triangles of the same altitude are proportional to their bases, the law for finding the area of a rectangle is of the greatest importance, and should, we suggest, have received more careful treatment.

The notion of the tangent to a curve, and in particular of the tangent to a circle, as a particular case of a secant, is adopted in most modern textbooks; but it is doubtful whether it is the best way for the beginner to approach the subject. The doctrine of limits is by no means a simple branch of mathematics. Is it right to state in consecutive sentences that "a tangent passes through two points on a circle indefinitely near to one another" and "a tangent meets a circle, but does not cut it"? Surely the former statement is not literally true: it is merely a paradoxical way of stating that secants (which cut the circle in two points) can be thought of as lying as close as ever one likes to the tangent, which, however, has only one point in common with the circle.

As we stated at the beginning, these comments are not to be regarded as adverse criticism of the excellent book before us; they are designed rather to call the attention of teachers to various questions which are worth serious study and renewed discussion.

The Mineral Kingdom. By Dr. Reinhard Brauns. (Williams & Norgate.)—After a considerable interval, a new part (XVI.) of this work, translated by Mr. L. J. Spencer, has been published. The section devoted to precious stones is here brought to a conclusion by a description of opal, and the study of the great group of rock-forming minerals is then taken up, beginning with the family of feldspars. Four coloured plates accompany the text, but these refer to minerals which have been described in earlier parts of the work. It would be much more convenient to the reader if the plates were so distributed as to correspond with the text which immediately accompanies them. The plates issued with the present part include figures of the diamond, ruby, sapphire, beryl, spinel, and zircon, all the figures being executed in that faithful and effective manner with which readers of the work are now familiar.

Science Gossip.

PART III. of Dr. Frazer's rehandling of 'The Golden Bough,' 'The Dying God,' will be published by Messrs. Macmillan in October; also 'The Baganda: an Account of their Native Customs and Beliefs,' by the Rev. John Roscoe, who has spent twenty-five years as a missionary in the heart of Africa.

The same firm have in hand 'The Treatment of Fractures by Mobilization and Massage,' by Dr. James B. Menell, with Introduction by Dr. J. Lucas-Championnière, whose methods of treatment the book advocates; and 'Conduct and its Disorders Biologically Considered,' by Dr. Charles A. Mercier.

DR. NANSEN has been engaged for some years past on a history of the exploration of the Northern Hemisphere, which will be entitled 'Through Northern Mists,' and will be published by Mr. Heinemann in the autumn. It is to be illustrated from old charts and engravings, as well as drawings by the author.

Mr. Heinemann also announces under the title of 'The Modern Criminal Science Series' translations of some of the most interesting volumes by Continental writers on different phases of crime and criminality. The first four to appear will be: 'Criminal Psychology,' by Hans Gross; 'Modern Theories of Criminality,' by C. Bernaldo de Quirós; 'Crime: its Cause and Remedies,' by Cesare Lombroso; and 'Criminal Sociology,' by Enrico Ferri.

THE section of the British Association concerned with anthropology is considering this week the scheme of measurement put before the Anthropometric Conference held recently at a joint meeting of the German and Vienna Anthropological Societies at Heilbronn, in which this country was represented by the Hon. Treasurer of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Mr. John Gray.

The scheme, which will now supersede the Frankfort Agreement drawn up some thirty years ago, is to be used immediately for an anthropometric survey of the whole German Empire, and the German Government has promised the necessary financial assistance to experts. It is hoped that other Governments will follow this lead, as the existence of a common schedule to work with will be a great advantage to scientific investigators of the evolution of various peoples.

THE sun will be vertical over the equator at 4h. 18m. (Greenwich time) on the morning of the 24th inst.

THE moon will be full at 3h. 57m. on the afternoon of the 8th inst., and new at 2h. 37m. on that of the 22nd. She will be in apogee on the morning of the 2nd, in perigee on that of the 17th, and in apogee again on that of the 30th.

MERCURY will be at inferior conjunction with the sun on the 9th inst., and at greatest western elongation from him on the 25th; he will be visible in the morning during the last week of the month, situated in the constellation Leo.

Venus is at inferior conjunction with the sun on the 15th; she will be visible in the evening at the beginning of the month, and in the morning at the end of it, in Leo, and about 10 degrees south of Mercury due on the 24th.

Mars is now tolerably conspicuous, and rises earlier each night; he is due south of

the Pleiades, and moving nearly towards the east. Jupiter sets soon after the sun, and earlier each evening. Saturn is near the boundary of the constellations Aries and Taurus, stationary on the 3rd, rising now about 10 o'clock in the evening, and earlier each night.

Dr. FRANZ of Breslau, whilst searching for Kiess's comet on the night of July 22nd, noticed a nebulous object which moved so fast that its right ascension increased by about 3^m in six minutes, whilst its declination did not perceptibly change. Its apparent diameter was about 6', and it presented a considerable similarity in appearance to the comet, which was found shortly afterwards, about 10° to the north of the object in question; it was moving in nearly the reverse direction. As no one else has seen this remarkable object, nothing more is known of it. If a comet, it was moving very rapidly.

FINE ARTS

THE GEORGIAN SOCIETY.

Records of Eighteenth-Century Domestic Architecture and Decoration in Dublin. Vol. III. (Dublin, Georgian Society.)

DR. MAHAFFY, when not occupied with the Silver Age of the Greeks, devotes his unquenchable ardour to the Golden Age of Irish society and domestic art. There was, indeed, an earlier Golden Age of which he has not taken much notice, the age of the Irish goldsmiths; but this was associated with *caenobia*, not society, and in that age domestic architecture, outside the monasteries, did not exist. The Georgian Society, which owes its inception and guidance to him, deals with the "stately homes" of Ireland that sprang up in extraordinary abundance in the eighteenth century. Of earlier examples of domestic architecture there are lamentably few in Ireland; but the Hanoverian period saw the birth—Molyneux House dates from about 1715—the growth, and finally the "degeneration in overlaid splendours," of a grandiose style, characteristically Georgian in its dignified simplicity, yet with a distinctive Irish touch in its Italianate decoration. Whatever one's opinion may be of the Georgian style as compared with others, none can dispute its grave dignity, its commodiousness, or the richness and elaborate refinement of its ornament.

Unhappily, the majority of the great town houses of the Irish gentlemen and nobles have fallen upon evil times. They were nearly all built by the landed gentry, and there is hardly an example of a mere merchant's house now standing in Dublin except Dawson's, the present Mansion House. The landowners, from various causes, found themselves obliged to give up the luxury of a town residence; and the stately mansions where the peers and country gentlemen of Ireland spent "the season" are now for the most part either lost among the ruins of the Dublin slums, or humbled to the position of shops

or hotels, or, more often, have become common tenement-houses, where dirt and squalor riot in rooms which once felt the dainty shoe of a Dolly Monroe or a Miss Montgomery in the days when Dublin danced.

To reclaim these once gracious houses to their ancient use and dignity is plainly impossible. The Georgian Society has set itself the alternative task of making such a record of them, in every detail of value, by photographs, plans, and historical descriptions, that when the buildings shall have vanished, their beauty and excellence of design may yet be preserved for the admiration of posterity. It is a worthy aim, and it is being worthily pursued. The three volumes so far issued to its members form a most valuable—we may almost say, priceless—record of a large number of the finest Georgian houses, and the most beautiful and characteristic relics of Georgian decoration, in Dublin. The photographs are admirable, and bring out all details with perfection; and Mr. Sadleir's descriptive and historical notes, which among other things record as far as possible the names of the successive tenants of the various houses, like Mr. Strickland's account of St. Stephen's Green in the second volume, show much careful labour. As it proceeds, and method and materials become more familiar, the work improves, and the third volume, which deals predominantly with Dublin's finest thoroughfare, Sackville Street, and the Provost's House at Trinity College, is a splendid example of historical and topographical research and lavish photographic illustration. The book is a delight to the eye as well as to the understanding.

This volume also presents a new feature which, we hope, will not be missing in the volumes still to come. We refer to Dr. Mahaffy's essay, full of knowledge and entertainment, on the society which enjoyed life, as life has never at any other time been enjoyed in Dublin, in these fine old houses:—

"The actual men and women who made these beautiful houses for themselves, and erected these stately buildings for the public service of the country, are more interesting than their stuccos and friezes, their sofas and settees. In the striking words of Cicero, *Non domo dominus, sed domino domus honestanda est*. But alas! while the remains of their houses are present with us, so that we can picture them, measure them, criticize them, the flavour of their social life, like the bouquet of some delicate vine, the volatile odour of some precious unguent, has long since evaporated; and we can hope to discover its components only, and reproduce, at best, some poor phantom of the long-lost reality."

So much nonsense has been, and is still being, written about the Irish people that it is a refreshment to read sane judgments and to study the firm facts upon which they are based. That they are not in accord with popular views will surprise no one who is acquainted with the facts or with the courage of the author. Dr. Mahaffy seeks to show the state of

society which permitted the building of so many sumptuous mansions, and in exposing some highly respectable misconceptions he does not shrink from stating home truths which must be unpalatable to many of his countrymen. It is not his business to speak smooth things, but to write history.

The thesis he endeavours to prove is that the great Dublin houses of the eighteenth century were not the selfish luxuries of rackrenting absentee landlords, but the results of wise farming of increasingly valuable land. He points out that Irish land had doubled and quadrupled in value during the century, that a vast quantity of waste land was being brought into cultivation by the landlords, and that it had been extensively broken up into arable farms, which employed a large agricultural population. He also shows that the same landlords who built these great town houses were building at the same time handsome country mansions on their estates, which gave employment to numerous labourers and craftsmen. This movement was coincident with a significant fall by one-half in the rate of interest on loans, and it is not arguable that it should imply a poor and miserable agricultural population. Bishop Pococke, who knew Ireland well, was impressed in 1752 by the wealth and comfort of the Roman Catholic population of the barony of Forth, which in some years during the Penal Acts exported as much as 140,000 barrels of barley; and even in out-of-the-way places all over Ireland

"he finds everywhere hospitality, security for himself and his horses, new industries in the remoter parts, where weaving and spinning were being widely promoted, and above all, handsome new country houses, either recently finished or in course of construction. Some of them still survive, and we may well say that at no period, except the succeeding generation, has Ireland ever seen such houses built."

Indeed, the Royal Dublin Society, founded in 1731, was almost anticipating Sir Horace Plunkett's plans for promoting husbandry and industries, though with little encouragement. The common impression of English visitors, that the Irish peasant was miserably poor, was due, in Dr. Mahaffy's opinion, partly to the fact that they set out with a preconceived theory which they proceeded to prove; and partly to the frequent error of confounding squalor with poverty. The Irish peasant—and not only the peasant—still dislikes cleanliness and lives in squalor, in spite of the 60 millions saved in the banks. "Muck is his darling," as Mrs. Delany said of the dirty curmudgeon who "was worth 2,000*l.* a year." "The more I study Georgian Ireland," says Dr. Mahaffy, "the more I feel that hardly anything is changed in the quality of the people."

A great deal has been changed, however, in the quality of Dublin society. How brilliant it was in the middle of the eighteenth century Dr. Mahaffy is able to show by the ample and "unsuspicious

evidence" of the contemporary newspapers. His search through old files of Falkiner and Pue has brought together many interesting and curious details. In Georgian days Dublin supported theatres and concerts as Dublin does not support them now, and the evenings were as gay as they are now dull. The great people's houses were scattered all over the city, in places which are now decayed slums, as well as in the new squares and streets, and they were filled on most evenings with a radiant company, happy in dancing, or small-talk, or cards. Dublin society was cultivated; it nourished its intellects on good literature in pirated editions; but it was above all leisured. There was always time for amusement. The hours kept, the early afternoon dinner, followed by tea, encouraged social gatherings, and left time for a play, or concert, or ridotto, before a late supper. What these meals were may be seen in the amazing and complicated duplex menus here quoted, of which Dr. Mahaffy observes: "It is to me an insoluble problem to tell which of all these dishes the average guest would attack, how many of them, and in what order." Equally difficult to explain is the legal restriction upon killing "wild turkeys": and the advertisement by a tobacconist of "mild pig-tail for ladies" suggests the appalling question, Did Irish belles chew?

There were many other curious things in the gay and cultivated Irish capital of Georgian days:—

"As late as 1778 *The Hibernian Journal* tells us that an ingenious gentleman is devising a neat machine to entrap pigs in the streets alive, because the natives who let them out so grease their tails that they cannot be caught. The usual method at that time was to engage a halberdier, whose duty it was to kill or maim any pigs he could reach."

The insecurity of the streets and roads from footpads and highwaymen was a notable feature of the life of those days, and seems to have borne no relation to prevalence of famine or dear food, when a jury found that one poor starving woman "committed suicide in self-defence." People were hanged and (it would seem) even burnt in public, a hundred yards from St. Stephen's Green; and there was then, as now, a great deal of cruelty to animals in the streets. "The coexistence of savagery and culture," Dr. Mahaffy maliciously remarks,

"is the distinctive feature of Irish life since the days of Giraldus Cambrensis; and since the days when The O'Cahan in his wigwam, surrounded by his stark naked wives and daughters, addressed the astonished foreign visitor in fluent Latin."

The contrasts of luxury and squalor, fastidious taste, intellectual enjoyments, and brutality and dirt, were conspicuous at a time when no strict line of division existed between the mansions of the gentry and the cabins of the poor, when Dublin was a handsome city, but mixed.

It is, however, impossible to notice a tithe of the curious facts which Dr.

Mahaffy has brought together in a discursive and occasionally provocative, but altogether charming manner. Nor can we discuss his explanation of the reasons which led to the abandonment of the splendour of colour and decoration—reasons which he associates with ideas of republican simplicity and Evangelical fervour.

We would make only two suggestions. A large plan of Dublin, say in 1760, with the principal houses numbered, and an index giving the names of the owners at that date, would be an interesting and valuable addition to the next volume; and a sketch of the daily life of some prominent members of society, to be gathered from letters and diaries like those of Cosby of Stradbally and Mrs. Delany, would give life to the picture. As it is, in spite of Dr. Mahaffy's remark that "the actual men and women" of the time are more interesting than their houses and furniture, we have not quite got to flesh and blood yet: the essay still deals with externals, though it deals with them with much knowledge and insight.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE

A History of Greek Sculpture, by Rufus B. Richardson (New York, American Book Company), is a brief compilation, apparently intended for the use of students. The amount of space devoted to the earlier period is somewhat excessive; it is strange to find only about 35 pages out of 280 assigned to the fourth century. The illustrations are numerous, but not very clear, the outlines being often marred by an attempt to cut away the background. The author has made careful use of his numerous predecessors; where he ventures on observations of his own he is often not so happy. One or two examples of this must suffice. On the well-known Vaphio cup, where the further tree to which the net is attached is represented by a common device of early perspective, upon a higher level, he thinks the bull has "wrenched it from the ground by his struggles." Again, he quotes as of Mycenaean age a relief with a chariot in Crete which is really archaic Greek, an error of about eight centuries. Perhaps one can least easily forgive his description of the magnificent group with a rearing horse on the west Parthenon frieze as "an angry old man... beating his horse."

Understanding of the spirit of Greek art seems wanting in these and other passages; and it is also to be feared that the number of details crowded into so short a text will fail to produce any clear impression upon the reader. The volume may rank as a convenient and, on the whole, correct summary for those who require a book upon a brief scale. But, as we point out elsewhere this week, these condensations of knowledge are handicapped by their very nature.

Building in London: a Treatise on the Law and Practice affecting the Erection and Maintenance of Buildings in the Metropolis. By Horace Cubitt. (Constable & Co.)—The law in regard to questions of building and sanitation in London differs so much from the law and practice elsewhere, and the interests affected are of such importance, that a comprehensive work of reference on the subject will be welcomed by architects, surveyors, and others.

The Acts (more than forty in number), by-laws, and regulations applicable to building work in London are complicated by cases where special treatment can be applied for, and the right of appeal against the decision of an administrative authority claimed. Mr. Cubitt realizes that the majority of persons will hesitate to accept the statement of any writer in respect of a statutory requirement, and before accepting his explanation will desire to read the text of the requirements for themselves. All the Acts, by-laws, and regulations are therefore appended in full and form one half of the volume. By an ingenious and simple method of cross-reference the reader can, when desiring to consult any requirement that is considered in one of the chapters devoted to an explanation of the law, refer at once to the text of the requirement itself. Conversely when studying a statutory requirement, he can refer to what Mr. Cubitt has to say about it.

The question of the preparation of plans for submission to public authorities is dealt with. The cost of building work in London is adequately treated in a chapter specially contributed by Mr. H. I. Leaning. Mr. Sydney A. Smith treats of the valuation, rating, and general development of London property.

An Index of 60 pages completes a work of undoubted utility.

THE NAWORTH MABUSE.

THE hope expressed by the present writer in these columns on August 5th that 'The Adoration of the Magi' by the early Netherlandish painter Jan Mabuse might be purchased on behalf of the National Gallery is now seen to have been no idle one. It is, indeed, officially announced that this finely executed painting has been bought from the Dowager Countess of Carlisle for the nation. 40,000*l.*, in addition to the amount of Estate Duty payable on the picture, is to be paid. The National Art-Collections Fund, which has done so much not only for our leading national museums, but also for certain galleries whose smaller claims have been considered and recognized from time to time, has contributed 10,000*l.* The National Gallery Board have supplied 15,000*l.* from the Funds at their disposal, and the Government have conditionally advanced 15,000*l.* and the duty payable, to complete the purchase. This sum may seem to the lay mind large. It is, however, when all the circumstances of the case are realized, relatively moderate. Two, if not three, wealthy American collectors who have during the present summer been privileged to inspect the picture—since, of course, its acquisition for the collection at Trafalgar Square was an assured fact—expressed both their admiration of it and their willingness to pay at least twice the sum at which the late Lord Carlisle valued his highly treasured possession.

It is well known in restricted art circles that Lord Carlisle for many years before his death last Easter cherished the hope that the National Gallery would one day come to own it. His position as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery was thought by him to preclude the possibility of his offering it for purchase by the nation, and it was naturally assumed that the Government would not provide more than a part of the requisite amount.

In May last, shortly after his death—no specific reference was made in either the will or codicil to any picture at Castle Howard or Naworth—'The Adoration of the Magi' was removed from the latter place

to Trafalgar Square; but his widow stipulated, as a condition of sale, that no public appeal for contributions should be made. The happy termination of the negotiations has not been effected without many misgivings on the part of Sir Charles Holroyd; and the untiring efforts of Sir Isidore Spielmann and Mr. R. C. Witt, the joint Hon. Secretaries of the National Art-Collections Fund, together with considerable tact shown by the members of the Executive Committee of that Fund, have only recently brought about the desired result. All things considered, it is to be regretted that the picture could not be exhibited, for the first time for a quarter of a century, at the exhibition at the Grafton Galleries—now being organized by, and on behalf of the National Art-Collections Fund. It is reasonable to assume that, had that been considered a desirable course to pursue in the case of a painting purchased in part out of the National Exchequer, the attendance of the public in Grafton Street in October would have been largely augmented.

'The Adoration of the Magi,' which is almost the earliest known and certainly the best of Jan Mabuse's works, is painted on four vertical panels which are in an excellent state of preservation. Fully detailed descriptions of the varied, yet closely-knit composition, which contains thirty-five figures of different dimensions apart from those forming the cavalcade of the Magi sketchily represented in the right background were given in *The Athenæum* in 1851, when the picture was shown at the British Institution; in 1857, when it was seen in the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition; in 1876, when a former critic wrote at some length on the collection at Castle Howard; in 1885, on the occasion of its inclusion in the Old Masters Exhibition at Burlington House; and as recently as the 5th of last month.

It is in every sense a "museum piece," and one which is likely to attract much popular attention, owing to the multiplicity of detail lavished on the gorgeous costumes of the three Magi, and the quasi-real Gothic palace in which the scene is set. Although much time will have to be spent in carefully inspecting every part of the composition if the painter's remarkable, rather than laudable, insistence on the elaboration of detail is to be enjoyed to the full, it will before long be conceded by the serious student of art that the work belongs to a period of transition leading up to the introduction into the Netherlands of Cinquecento Italian mannerisms, and the consequent, but only temporary decline of Northern painting, about the fourth decade of the sixteenth century. To put the matter briefly, it has to yield the palm to the 'Jan Arnolfini and his Wife,' which Jan van Eyck carried to completion some seventy years earlier. Indeed, these two works, each a masterpiece in its own class, are at opposite ends of the scale of the earliest period of Netherlandish painting, so far as we can now study it in any detail. It is fortunate, therefore, that they are both fully authenticated by signature, and can be seen within a few feet of each other in Room XI.

It will be a matter of surprise to some to hear that this is not the first occasion on which the Mabuse, which was at Castle Howard down to 1885, has been in the National Gallery. Shortly before it was sent to Burlington House in that year, by which date the late Lord Carlisle had been a Trustee of the National Gallery for four years, it was placed temporarily in the studio at Trafalgar Square.

The acquisition of the Naworth Mabuse is of the highest importance in the annals

of the National Gallery. We must congratulate the Dowager Countess of Carlisle on her patriotic unselfishness as vendor; the Trustees and Director of the National Gallery on their untiring efforts; and the National Art-Collections Fund on the conspicuous success which they have achieved in the short space of seven years.

MAURICE W. BROCKWELL.

Fine Art Gossip.

THE EXHIBITION OF OLD MASTERS at the Grafton Galleries, which is to open on October 3rd, is likely to be of unusual excellence. The proceeds are to be given to the National Art-Collections Fund, and many owners are defraying the expenses of carriage and insurance of their pictures as a contribution to the Fund. The exhibits already promised are sufficient to ensure the success of the show. Sir Edgar Vincent is Chairman; Mr. Roger Fry, Secretary to the Committee; and Mr. M. W. Brockwell, Assistant Secretary.

FURTHER announcements are now out concerning the illustrated books of the season. Mr. Rackham's new volume will be the continuation of his illustrations of Wagner's 'Ring.' The first book contained 'The Rhinegold' and 'The Valkyrie'; the new one is to include 'Siegfried' and 'The Twilight of the Gods.' It will be published by Mr. Heinemann, who also promises an edition of Shelley's 'Sensitive Plant' illustrated by Mr. Charles Robinson, with an Introduction by Mr. Gosse. Mr. Robinson is also illustrating 'The Secret Garden,' a new book by Mrs. Hodgson Burnett.

Mr. Heinemann also announces a 'Treatise on the Technique of Painting,' by M. Charles Moreau-Vautier, and the 'Biography of John Gibson,' the sculptor, as well as two architectural albums, on 'The Romanesque School in France' and 'Baroque Art in Italy.'

MESSRS. MACMILLAN have in hand 'Stories from the Pentamerone,' selected and edited by Mr. E. F. Strange, with thirty-two illustrations in colour by Mr. Warwick Goble; 'The Ingoldsby Legends,' illustrated also in colour by Mr. H. G. Theaker; the two 'Alice' books with Tenniel's illustrations, sixteen of which will be coloured; and 'The Story of Emma, Lady Hamilton,' by Mrs. Julia Frankau, which will contain thirty reproductions in colour, and eight in monochrome, of famous paintings and engravings.

The same firm also announce 'The Practice of Water-Colour Painting illustrated by the Work of Modern Artists,' by Mr. A. L. Baldry.

SERIES on the life and works of great painters abound, and now Mr. Heinemann is beginning one on the "Great Engravers" of the world, edited by Mr. Arthur M. Hind of the Print-Room at the British Museum. The first six volumes are ready for immediate publication, and each will contain the work of one engraver or of a distinct group.

WITH the September number *The Burlington Magazine* concludes its nineteenth volume. A coloured frontispiece illustrates an article by Mr. A. Van de Put on 'Some Fifteenth-Century Spanish Carpets.' M. Kimpei Takeuchi describes 'Ancient Chinese Bronze Mirrors,' and Mr. Tancréd Borenius writes on Cima da Conegliano's picture of 'St. Jerome in his Solitude.' Mr. Cescinsky gives the second of his articles on lacquer-work in England, dealing this month with

European lacquer. A well-illustrated article is called 'Some Approximations,' by Sir Martin Conway. The concluding portion is printed of the interesting inventory of the Arundel Collection recently discovered by Miss Mary L. Cox in the Record Office. Mr. P. M. Turner discusses the authorship of the picture of 'A Galiot in a Gale' in the National Gallery; and Mr. Campbell Dodgson gives minute details about some undescribed states of etchings by the late Sir F. Seymour Haden.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY is now on the telephone, but, of course, only for official use. It would be interesting to know if there is any connexion between this fact and the recent nomination of Lord Curzon as a Trustee. Since 1898 direct telephonic communication has been established between the National Gallery and the fire station at Old Scotland Yard, while for some time past the national museums in Trafalgar Square and at Millbank have been connected by telephone.

THE theft of the Louvre Leonardo recalls the palace steps of San Lorenzo,

Which, meant for lounging knaves o' the Medici,
Now serves re-venders to display their ware,—

where Browning picked up the "square old yellow book" containing the record of the murder of Pompilia and her reputed foster-parents in 1698. Amongst the "odds and ends of ravage" is

a Lionard going cheap
If it should prove, as promised, that Joconde
Whereof a copy contents the Louvre.

"THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI," by Jan Mabuse, formerly in the Collection of the Earl of Carlisle, is the title of a short monograph by Mr. Maurice W. Brockwell, which is due within the next few days. It deals almost exclusively with the picture just purchased by the National Gallery, including reproductions of it as a whole and in parts, a lengthy description, and an exhaustive inquiry into its "pedigree."

M. AUGUSTE HENRI LOUIS DE CLERMONT, who died in Paris last week at the age of 67, was at one time a well-known exhibitor at the Salon of battle scenes.

THE late Prof. Fenollosa, Commissioner of Fine Arts to the Japanese Government, left at his death an unpublished manuscript which had been a labour of love throughout his life. Mr. Heinemann will publish it in the coming autumn, in two quarto volumes, under the title of 'Epochs of Chinese and Japanese Art.'

MUSIC

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Unfigured Harmony. By Percy C. Buck. (Oxford, Clarendon Press.)—The author of this excellent book is convinced that figured bass, as a means of teaching harmony, has been allowed to acquire undue predominance. He, however, fully recognizes its value to students who are beginning the study of harmony. Dr. Prout showed both in his 'Harmony' and in his 'Counterpoint,' that he had come to the same opinion; but Dr. Buck, his successor at Dublin, is justified in saying that he knows of no book "dealing systematically with unfigured harmony"; hence he has "tried to provide one."

The two opening chapters deal with Modulation, Elementary and Advanced, and then follow others on Unfigured Harmony,

of which there are two kinds. One concerns Unfigured Basses, but even here the notes suggest more or less clearly what chords were in the writer's mind. Our author, however, wishes students to aim at something higher than mere perpendicular chords, in hymn-tune fashion, and he therefore shows, and by numerous examples, how to build up something on an unfigured bass, which will be "as much like true composition as opportunity and ability allow."

The other kind concerns the Harmonization of Melodies, in which not only the inner parts, but also the bass, have to be found. In this it is not a bass suggesting chords to be filled up in the inner parts that would satisfy him. "A properly harmonized melody," says Dr. Buck, "should sound like a composition, and never like a harmony exercise." He wishes to help students to become true musicians. Nothing can be clearer than the suggestions he gives or the examples in which he shows not only what to do, but also what to avoid.

Our author is, of course, appealing to earnest students. But there are many such persons who are not by nature musical, and these we fear, would never become expert enough to perceive "after a rapid glance" what style, treatment, modulations, &c., would be suitable to any melody put before them.

Space will not allow us to describe in detail the contents of the book, but we must call attention to one excellent piece of advice to students, namely, to write, especially in advanced work, as if for strings. To write as if for voices or for pianoforte, as is frequently done, does not give full freedom to the imagination.

In his Preface our author states that he will welcome any suggestion or criticism. He refers to a few passages in Bach, Schumann, and Brahms, but in a second edition of the book an appendix giving, say, about a dozen salient examples of harmonizing melodies from classical and modern masters, would prove interesting as well as instructive. One other point we would notice. Melodies are given for students to harmonize. Why should there not be some indication to show whether they should be thought of in slow or quick time? for surely the character of the under parts would often greatly depend on such a consideration.

Modern Organ Building. By Walter and Thomas Lewis. (William Reeves.)—The Lewis firm is well known, and Mr. Thomas Lewis, a man of wide experience, built the organs of the Protestant and Catholic cathedrals of Newcastle-on-Tyne, of Ripon Cathedral, and the great organ of St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow. The special object of the authors in writing this book was to explain in a comprehensive and practical manner mysteries of the up-to-date organ. Concerning the earlier stages of the instrument, they feel that what has already been written is more than sufficient. They have a remarkably simple and lucid way of explaining the "modern marvels of the organ-builder's art," and they are justified in supposing that those acquainted by sight with organ mechanism will easily understand the numerous and excellent illustrations; to those, however, who are not, consultation with some amateur or professional organ-builder is recommended. Some organists prefer the old tracker to pneumatic action, but only, say the authors, "those who have had bad experience, for some systems of pneumatic action are far from perfect." The chapters on pneumatic and electro-pneumatic organs are particularly interesting. There is a good index.

Musical Gossip.

M. GEORGES ENESCO, a Roumanian by birth, who studied composition at the Paris Conservatoire under Massenet and Fauré, was represented at the Promenade Concert last Tuesday evening by a Rhapsody in A, No. 1 (Op. 11). A Symphony of his, given at a Philharmonic Concert on February 28th, 1907, and written at the age of 24, certainly displayed talent and promise.

The Rhapsody in question is less ambitious. There is considerable charm in the Roumanian melodies on which it is based; the workmanship is clever, and the scoring effective. The coda, however, is too much spun out. As light music it is acceptable, but the Symphony gave promise of something more serious. The rendering of the work under Sir Henry J. Wood was excellent.

Miss Ivy Parkin, who appeared at these concerts for the first time, played the Grieg Pianoforte Concerto in A minor. Her technique is excellent, and the interpretation of the music, if not strongly emotional, was sound. Miss Louie James, who sang Tchaikowsky's 'Aria der Johanna,' has a fine mezzosoprano voice, yet has still something to learn in the art of producing it.

TO-MORROW WEEK the special Sunday service will be held in Worcester Cathedral, while on the following Tuesday morning the Festival will open with 'Elijah.' In the evening Dr. Walford Davies will conduct his new work 'Sayings of Jesus.' The five sayings consist of a reputed saying of Jesus, and certain other words which are chiefly derived from the 'Imitation of Christ.' On Thursday evening Dr. Vaughan Williams will conduct his 'Five Mystical Songs,' poems by George Herbert. Both works were written expressly for this Festival.

At the concert on the Wednesday evening in the Public Hall Prof. Granville Bantock will conduct his new 'Overture to a Greek Tragedy,' and Mr. W. H. Reid his new 'Variations for String Orchestra.' Sir Edward Elgar will also conduct his 'Coronation March.' The other works to be performed during the week have already been mentioned in these columns.

MESSRS. KREISLER, CASALS, AND BAUER, exceptionally fine artists, will give two recitals at Queen's Hall on Tuesday afternoons, October 3rd and 10th. The programmes will include trios by Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Tchaikowsky.

THE CARL ROSA COMPANY will open its 41st season at the Marlborough Theatre on Monday. The first five nights will be devoted to 'Carmen,' 'Tannhäuser,' 'Mignon,' 'Trovatore,' and 'The Queen of Sheba.' On Saturday 'Cavalleria Rusticana' and 'Pagliacci' will be given at a matinée, and 'Faust' in the evening. Boito's 'Mephistofele,' of which Mr. van Noorden has secured the sole English rights, will be heard during the season.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN will publish in the middle of this month 'The Family Letters of Wagner,' translated by Mr. William Ashton Ellis. The letters range from 1832 to 1874, but are most abundant in the period 1840-60.

The same firm announce 'Post Victorian Music, with other Studies and Sketches,' by Mr. C. L. Graves, which includes several portraits and appreciations of notable people; and 'Musical Composition: a Short Treatise for Students,' by Sir C. V. Stanford. The latter will be published

jointly by Messrs. Macmillan and Messrs. Stainer & Bell of Berners Street, and initiates "The Musician's Library."

THE higher possibilities of municipal enterprise in music are being gradually realized at Brighton, where an increasing public is learning to appreciate the daily high-class concerts and the weekly classical concerts under the direction of Mr. Lyell Tayler. The analytical details which are issued with the programmes without additional cost are much to be commended.

PERFORMANCES NEXT WEEK.
Mon.—Sat. Promenade Concerts, 8, Queen's Hall.

DRAMA

DUKE OF YORK'S.—*The Concert: a Comedy in Three Acts.* Adapted by Leo Dietrichstein from the German of Hermann Bahr.

THIS piece has achieved a great success, we are assured, in America. National tastes differ, no doubt, but it looks as if playgoers must be easily pleased on the other side of the Atlantic. Possibly the central character of the play, a musician worshipped by women, made a special appeal to the public of New York, where the *matinée*-girl's idol is much more potent than he is in London. There are occasions, indeed, when the artistic temperament, so-called, is treated almost seriously in 'The Concert.' The hero—whose stock-in-trade is his hair and personal beauty no less than his musical accomplishments—is made to indulge in some interesting confessions as to the value, for such an artist as himself, of feminine adulation, and the dread he has that it may one day cease when he can no longer check or disguise the ravages of time. But such suggestions of a purpose behind the story are scanty, and essentially the play is a farce—a farce, however, that is a mixture of Teutonic sentiment and American broad humour, and is elaborated on the lines of comedy. The result is something heterogeneous, disconcerting, and, if the truth must be told, rather tedious.

The opening scenes, which illustrate the infatuation the musician's girl-pupils feel for their master, are written in a vein of wild extravagance, yet we are allowed to linger long enough over the signs of the philanderer's faithlessness to his wife to be disgusted rather than amused by his susceptibility. Thus we learn that he is apt to make a concert an excuse for carrying off one of his pupils for a couple of days to a cottage he owns in the Catskill Mountains, and the fact that his long-suffering wife suspects this trick of his only makes his "temperament" seem the more ugly. She may call him an "intractable child"; others might describe his weaknesses less charitably. It is true that the elopement which provides the topic of the play is innocent enough, but the author would have been

well advised if he had not lifted the curtain on his hero's past, and he should certainly have quickened the pace of his "comedy."

The piece drags, and does so just at the crucial point. There is nothing very new in an eloping pair being hoist with their own petard. The wronged husband and the deserted wife are, in this instance, supposed to punish their spouses by accepting their runaway adventure as a perfectly natural event. Nay, they pretend to have fallen in love with one another and to welcome the chance the elopement affords of a change of partners. The musician's wife, affecting to take her rival into her confidence, betrays all her husband's foibles and struggles to preserve his physical charms, while both she and her ally do their best with cynical complacency to fan the jealousy of the pair they thrust into each other's arms. The situation is laughable for a time, but, since it is never varied through two acts, except in details, it ends by wearying us. Some of the turns given to the situation are happy and ingenious, but the fun is far too long drawn out. Nor does the piece afford much scope for acting. Mr. Ainley suggests the explosive moods and childishness of the pianist of genius vivaciously; what he fails to convey, strangely enough, is the fascination of the man—perhaps that was not in his part. Miss Irene Vanbrugh's gifts are little less than wasted on the effort to make plausible the wife's ultra-placid philosophy. Miss May Blayney gets some clever effects now and then in showing the little pupil's shallow moods, but after all they are only the moods, as it were, of a marionette. Mr. Bryant is forcible and dryly humorous as the other member of the sex-quartet. Finally, Mr. Anson gives a taste of his quality as a comedian. But none of the interpreters has a very grateful task.

GARDEN CITY FOLK PLAYS.

No. 1. *The Dweller in the Body.*—No. 2. *The Passing of Baldur.* Part I. *Odin the Watcher.* Part II. *Forlorn Gods.*—No. 3. *Dawn.* By [Hope Rea. (Theosophical Publishing Society).]—We do not know how many more "Garden City Folk Plays" Hope Rea proposes to write or the Theosophical Publishing Society to print, and, frankly, we do not greatly care. The present reviewer has decided to leave the reading and recommending of future Garden City publications to Mr. F. R. Benson, whose encomium, printed in black on a white label, gives distinction to the covers of two out of the four volumes before us:—

"There is a shifting and a changing among the seats of the High Gods, and something new is knocking at the door" ('Dawn,' by Hope Rea)—something new that tends to bring new life into the heart of the old world, and this our land, and of this awakening to a fairer dawn these plays are welcome harbingers."

To decorate a cover or two with such words is pardonable vanity, but to repeat them at the beginning of each play, so that they occur six times in four small volumes, is a mistake. It is excessive for one thing; for another, it draws attention to the author's deficiencies. Mr. Benson's success in giving

an air of significance to something trivial accentuates Hope Rea's failure.

"When a new religion is born and comes with its own insistent force to an ancient people, enmeshed in a still powerful, though dying tradition, great adventures must befall and many a romance of soul be enacted."

Would it have been less impressive to have said that the lives of missionaries are exciting, and that conversion is a serious affair? "In striving at the present time to realize such long-past happenings, an extreme of archaic diction might approach to the letter of truth." To be sure it might; but to achieve archaic diction, or "a slighter convention of speech," or a tolerable literary imitation of any sort, a certain aptness at catching the habits of thought and expression of the author imitated is essential. It is not enough to have read 'Everyman'; even to have supplemented one's mediæval studies by glancing at the works of Synge and Mr. Yeats is not enough: to contrive a Morality, a Miracle, or a Mystery, one must have appreciated what one has read. Perhaps Hope Rea has been misled by the extreme simplicity—to use that word in its best sense—of mystic and mediæval art, into supposing that it was the work of men who were simple in the modern, detrimental sense. The task here undertaken is one for a learned and highly accomplished craftsman, a great original genius, or a well-meaning but rather unwary amateur. Clearly Hope Rea has a wholesome mind. It is good that many should feel what the author feels; but needless that any should print it. 'The Dweller in the Body' expresses a naive conception of a great truth; but, if all those who felt the unreality of material things were to write plays about it, what ears would be keen enough to catch, above the hubbub, the music of the spheres?

Of course, we may mistake. Originality may be the explanation of Hope Rea's apparent crudeness. We offer, therefore, a final quotation which should help the reader to determine the class to which its author belongs:—

Having.
Ho, ministers of mine, attend,
Do service to this gentleman!
Dear Lord, what would you, all is here?
Know you the dainty touch of gold?
A treasure holding brave delights—

MR. COLLINS AND THE KECKSY.

5, Oak Grove, Cricklewood, N.W., August 26, 1911.

The rightfulness of your opposition to Mr. Collins's suggestion in his edition of 'Henry V.' as to Shakespeare's use of the term "kecksies" is proved by an item in Tudor and Stuart cookery-book reading. Robert May, born 1588, learning his craft in Lady Dormer's kitchen, where his father was chief cook with four helpers under him, gives the well-known account of the table-decoration of a gilded pasteboard castle besieged by sugar-plums, where the besieged fire at their foes from cannon made of kecksies. He tells how portions of the dry and hollow-stalked plant were to be cut, were to be covered with paste, decorated with "Dutch leaf-gold," when, charged with gun-powder controlled by a train of it leading to a defender, each gun could emit its little volley of fire when desired, letting the mimic war rage. The kecksies were properly on mounts placed on the castle battlements; and the whole arrangement, fully set out by Robert May in his 'Accomplish'd Cook,' as one of the "Trophies and Triumphs of Cookery to be used at Festival Times, as Twelfth Day, &c.," was so well appreciated, it had room found for it in John Nott's 'Cook and Confectioner' as late as 1723.

Let it be noted that Shakespeare

('Henry V.' V. ii.) makes the French king speak of kecksies as to be seen near his palace, Troyes. By all analogy, no doubt they were. But Shakespeare's eyes were reproducing Warwickshire; and, as some link between the kex and the hemlock he had made the French king previously mention, Johnson's testimony as to the plants in a next county to Warwickshire comes in with point. He says (ed. 1760): "Kecksey, commonly kex. It is used in Staffordshire both for hemlock and any other hollow-jointed plant." It is not "exact" in the modern botanist's sense; but it will not do to substitute "weeds" generally for the clear and defined picture Shakespeare had in his mind. He could see, as you say, Umbelliferae. JENNETT HUMPHREYS.

Dramatic Gossip.

In *The English Review* for this month Mr. Maurice Baring has a short drama called 'The Double Game.' The scene is laid in Moscow; the heroine is a Revolutionary, and her lover's "double game" with her and the police leads her to commit suicide, when there is a good chance of her escaping the consequences of being implicated in a bomb-throwing plot which fails.

THE DRAMA SOCIETY, a new play-producing society founded by Mr. Rathmell Wilson, will in the autumn give Tuesday matinées of a new play by Mr. Stephen Phillips; plays by Ibsen and Oscar Wilde; and a new farce by M. Paul Hyacinth Loyson and Mr. Leonard Henslowe.

MR. G. G. WILLIAMS writes from Llandaff:—

"In your issue of August 26th Mr. Masfield is quoted to the effect that the Greek tragic poets end the action of their plays, in the modern manner, at the great scene. With the general truth of this I am not concerned, but it is certainly unfair that his reviewer should base his refutation on an example like the 'Ajax.' Dr. Ridgeway ('Origin of Tragedy,' p. 133) points out that the last scene of the 'Ajax' would be of vital interest to an Athenian audience. If Dr. Ridgeway's theory of tragedy is right, it would be the culminating point of the play."

Ajax ends his last speech at l. 865; his death is announced at l. 979; and the play ends at l. 1420. No doubt the disputation between Teucer and Menelaus after the death of Ajax had its point for an Athenian audience, but we have yet to learn from any professor or critic that it is the "great scene" of the play.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. K.—G. K.—H. E. C.—E. P.—Received.

S. L. P.—E. P.—H. R. T.—Many thanks.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. We cannot undertake to reply to inquiries concerning the appearance of reviews of books.

We do not undertake to give the value of books, china, pictures, &c.

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